WEDNESDAY 22 JANUARY 1997

WEATHER: Dull and cold

(IR45p) 40p

NEWS

Page 2 in new clothesthough not by Galliano. (he's on page 14)

Chris Evans: the sad truth

THE TABLOID



THE TABLOID **Bridget Jones** meets her millennium



Cold light on the children's hell

Britain's biggest abuse inquiry begins: 650 cases, up to 80 staff involved at 30 homes

Roger Dobson

A terrible story is stumbling into the daylight. For years, a countless numher of children were systematically ahused in children's homes across North Wales. At least 10 are now Court judge. dead - most of them from suicide.

Yesterday the scale of their suffering emerged. As Gerard Elias QC said at the start of the tribunal of inquiry into the scandal, if the allegations were accepted "they will compel the conclusion that children in care in Clwyd and Gwynedd during the period under review were ahused physically or sexually on a scale which borders on wholesale exploitation".

Mr Elias, counsel to the trihunal, said a staggering 650 people who were in care in North Wales in a 25year period from the mid-1970s had made complaints of abuse to police. Around 180 will give evidence to Britain's higgest inquiry into alleged maltreatment of children in care.

sistency of statements made by complainants to the trihunal appeared cogent and very impressive." Mr Elias told the tribunal, headed by Sir Ronald Waterhouse, a retired High

The role of social services would he investigated. "It seems an in-escapable conclusion, if wholesale abuse occurred, that some of those in positions of responsibility within the social service departments must have been, at the best, careless as to the plight of many of the children in their care ... or at worst, negligent to the point of gross professional incompetence, or even guilty of delib-erate 'eyes closing' to the state of affairs which existed in some of the

homes they helped to administer." Many of the allegations came to light as a result of articles in The Independent and Independent on Sunday over the last five years, starting with revelations about conditions at Bryn



was set up after we reported the refusal of the now defunct Clwyd County Council to publish an independent

report into the abuse allegations, As many as 80 people, and six po-lice officers, alleged to have been in-volved in the abuse may also give evidence to the tribunal, expected to last 12 months and cost up to £10m.

Mr Elias said the inquiry would be thorough and that no stone would be left unturned. Any allegations of organised abuse would be investigated, he said. Councils and their insurers were also criticised in his opening

speech. such ahuse of its children, and no civilised society will consider those who find themselves in care to be in any different position to those who enjoy the benefits of living at home under the care and control of their parents," Mr Elias said.

He added: "The abuse of a child is not only a most serious breach of trust by the adult concerned, it may well have had far-reaching and long-lasting consequences for the child victim which frequently outlive childhood. For too many, it seems, the consequences have been too hard to bear and suicide has seemed the only way out. At least 10 former children in care in North Wales who have alleged ahuse in this period are now dead, most of these are known to have taken their own lives."

He said that the evidence will have significance throughout the country for the safety and well-being of children in care.

He said one of the questions that "No civilised society may tolerate will he looked at was whether abuse was a series of unrelated occurrences

or whether it bore the hallmarks of organisation or infiltration "by those with a determination to exploit

vulnerable children". He said the tribunal would also look at how complaints were made. "The overwhelming response of those seen by the tribunal's interview team has been that complaining was not a real option, it brought no re-

lief hut risked yet worse treatment." Mr Elias, who continues his opening speech today, said that the role of the insurers of councils in North Wales would also be investigated.

"As the ride of complaints reached its crescendo in the 1990s, the loudest clamour seems to have come from the insurers of the local authorities who were anxious that abuse should he debated by members in private. Reports of inquiries were an 'en-couragement to the handwagon complaints', and with this approach, what might perhaps be called the hold-the-lid-on-at-all-costs approach, the Clwyd authority appears to have connived," Mr Elias

He said that from a police investigation in 1991, the tribunal team had identified more than 650 individual complainants.

Mr Elias said the trihunal, which is being held in Ewloe, Flintshire, had also surveyed a random sample of 600 children in care and found that some of them also complained of ahuse, "This has been a valuable exercise because most of the individ-uals approached have not hitherto been interviewed by the police or made any independent claim for compensation. They have not been motivated apparently by money. publicity or any external encouragement to complain, as may be

uggested by others." The tribunal is inquiring into alleged abuse in more than 30 homes in North Wales from 1974.

Sir Ronald ruled that complainants and alleged ahusers cannot be identified during the hearings.

Tony Blair's 'stalker' is exposed

Deputy Prime Minister strides into enemy territory to assault defecting captains of industry

Michael Harrison

The Deputy Prime Minister, prise reforms of the Eighties Michael Heseltine, clashed spec-unchanged but offered a new tacularly yesterday with some of agenda on education, welfare Britain's top bosses after they reform, the infrastructure, Eupublished a report endorsing key elements of Labour policy, in-cluding the Social Chapter and

a national minimum wage.

In a gung-ho exhibition of guerrilla politics, Mr Heseltine used a leftish London conference to attack husinessmen associated with Tony Blair. The Labour leader, who had earlier spotted Mr Heseltine sitting smouldering at the launch of the report, complained that the Deputy Prime Minister was becoming his personal stalker.

He joked that Mr Heseltine had pursued him to his office to talk about the Millennium Exhibition last week and had pur-sued him to yesterday's event, if he turned up at his speech in Amsterdam next Friday, he would have to resort to the new

-The Deputy Prime Minister, who gatecrashed the conference in London after the organisers failed to invite a single member of the Government, accused the group of being a "front organ-isation for the Lahour Party". Among the memhers of the Commission on Public Policy

and British Business are George Simpson, managing director of GEC, Boh Bauman, chairman of British Aerospace, Sir Christopher Harding, chair-man of Legal & General and David Sainsbury, chairman of

the supermarket group.

Speaking after the launch of the group's report, Mr Heseltine said: This is a front or ganisation for the Labour Party. You only have to look at the membership of the trustees and the support and the sup the supporters of the organisa-tion to realise that the objective of the exercise was to enable Tony Blair to be seen talking to the business community. The interesting thing is how few line managers turned up."
Earlier Mr Blair had pledged

to leave the Conservatives' industrial relations and enter-

rope and competition policy. Mr Heseltine then took the platform and launched a withering assault on both the commission and its report, accusing it of "seriously understating" the Government's achievements, failing to recognise the threat posed by the left, using out of date and selective statistics, save for two brief mentions.

"I must in honesty, go further. I question the motives of those who cloak their political inten-tions with academic respectability," he said.

Afterwards, John Monks, general secretary of the Trades Union Congress and a member Mr Heseltine's attacks as "pretty disgraceful". "It shows how out of touch with the agenda for the future. He is trying to rally husiness support behind the Tories hut he is fighting the hattles of the Seventies and Eighties," he said.

Last night the commission members fired off a letter rejecting any suggestion that they had any political agenda and saying that the launch of their report, "Promoting Prosperity", went very well.

But it goes on: "Among the positive comments; however, Michael Heseltine, in a piece of political knockabout, described the commission as a 'front for the Labour Party' and suggested that we are attempting somehow to 'curry favour' with Mr Blair and his colleagues.

"We were rather surprised at his comments, given that the commissioners are drawn from across the political spectrum and represent all sectors of British business. We have no party political agenda: our aim is simply to promote British

Business comment, page 19 Proximity talks: Mr Heseltine at the meeting, another close encounter with Mr Blair

Loyalists warned The Government issued a puhlie warning to lovalist groups that more violence would jeopardise the place of smaller loy-alist parties at the talks. Page 4

QUICKLY

Operatic fall-out

Raymond Gubhay, the impre-sario, has attacked Royal Opera House and English National Opera, saying that they are scared of commercial competition and "arrogant" oot to have touring plans.

Millwall collapse Millwall Holdings, the parent football team, called in the administrators after shares were suspended at 4p, valuing the club at £14m.

Mental care failing

Services for the mentally ill in London are near to collapse and unable to sustain the demands made on them, according to a study. Page 5

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Virtual bank heralds the cashless society

Jil Treanor Banking Correspondent

The Royal Bank of Scotland is to set up what it claims is the first full Internet banking service in Britain, marking an important step on the road towards virtual banking and the cashless society.

The move could lead to a stampede from other banks in Britain to offer such services, and may hasteo the demise of the branch network which

er banks in Britain do offer services on personal computers, ootably the TSB, the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) claims its service is different

RBS, based in Edinburgh, said it intended to roll out the Internet service to its balf-million telephooe banking customers in the spring. Some 50,000 of its customers bave access is already under threat from telephone banking. to the loternet. To join, customers will need a

Retailers already allow shoppers to huy a wide personal computer, a modem and Microsoft range of products on the Internet and while oth-

because it is Internet-wide and more sophisticated.

The human face of banking is gradually dis-appearing as new technology, including telephone banking, allows customers to move cash and to

RBS, which pioneered telephone sales of in-

surance through its Direct Line subsidiary a decade ago, claimed to have overcome the security problems of internet banking. A spokesman said it would take "longer than the universe has been around to break in.

pay bills without visiting their branches. The num-ber of bank branches in Britain has been slasbed by 3,000 to about 10,000 in the past six years and NatWest alone bas announced the loss of a further 10,000 jobs. But RBS said Internet banking did not mean more joh cuts.

Experts say that this type of hanking could eventually be used to provide a full banking service, including the transfer of cash into electronic purses, but this is likely to be many years away. Internet revolution, page 18

Abbey National pic, Abbey House, Baker Street, London NW1 6XL.

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significant shorts **GPs demand U-turn on** supermarket surgeries

Doctors leaders will today press for a U-turn over plans which could allow supermarkets to open doctors' surgeries, at a meeting with Department of Health officials. The BMA is threatening to attack the Government in the general election campaign for "privatising" the family doctor service, unless the Secretary of State for Health, Stephen Dorrell, backs down.

Such a charge would infuriale ministers, but leave the Tories highly vulnerable. Labour has been accusing the Government of planning the privatisation of the NHS for some time, but the backing of the doctors would make the charge stick.

Ministerial sources said they would be seeking a compromise by offering movement on otherissues, including a BMA demand for a proper timetable for pilot schemes in primary care, before they are introduced nationally.

But the Government sources appeared to rule out any retreat on the proposals to allow private companies to hire GPs. The plan is part of the NHS Primary Care Bill, which is due to go through its final stages in the Lords tomorrow before starting its passage through the Commons on 11 February. If there is an early election, there is a strong chance that Mr Dorrell will be forced to concede to Labour to get the vert of the Bill on the Common Rev. to Labour to get the rest of the Bill on the Statute Book.

Reducing traffic set to become law

A radical Bill to encourage councils to reduce traffic levels in their areas has a good chance of becoming law, according to its Liberal Democrat sponsors. The Traffic Reduction Bill, introduced by the MP for Bath, Don Foster, would require local authorities to draw up targets to reduce traffic growth for the years 2005 and 2010. It has the support of 220 MPs

Since Mr Foster agreed to remove the requirement for national targets, the Government has indicated that it will not oppose the Bill, which has its second reading on Friday. A mass rally in support of the Bill is being held in Westminster Central Hall at lunchtime today. Drivers written nff, page 7 Christian Wolmar

Veteran comedy producer dies



The producer Dennis Main Wilson, one of the guiding spirits behind BBC comedy assics like the Goon Show (left), Hancock's Half Hour and Till Death Us Do Part, died from cancer yesterday. Mr Main Wilson, 72, wbose showbusiness career spanned 50 years, also worked on Citizen Smith, The Marry Feldman Show, and The Rag Trade. He helped launch the careers of Peter Sellers, Spike

Milligan, Eric Sykes, Kenneth Williams and more recently, Stephen Fry. A passionate believer in building newcomers' careers, he also developed the Cambridge University Footlights for BBC2. That gave TV experience to people like Clive Anderson, Tony Slattery. Emma Thompson and Hugh Laurie. Main Wilson also discovered many talented writers. Two of whom, Johnny Speight - who wrote Till Death Us Do Part - and John Sullivan - writer of hits like Only Fools . And Horses - are regarded as the best of their generation.

Challenge to league tables fails

An attempt by a head teachers' union to challenge Government plans to publish primary school league tables was defeated in the

High Court yesterday.

The National Association of Head Teachers had soughl a judicial review of the way schools' performance is calculated in the tables, to be published in March. It said children who missed the tests through absence and those with special needs should not be included in the results.

The union failed to demonstrate that the Secretary of State had been unreasonable in deciding on the basis for the calculations. Lucy Ward

Jitted killer jailed for life

A man who stabbed his former girlfriend and her new boyfriend to death two days after being released from psychiatric hospital was jailed for life yesterday. A jury at Chester Crown Court found Andrew Cole, 26, of Llandrindod Wells, Powys, guilty of murdering Fiona Ovis, 28, and Ronnie Crompton, 18.

He had admitted killing the couple hut denied murder charges on the grounds of diminished responsibility and provocation. Cole had met Miss Ovis and Mr Crompton when they were all patients at the Mid-Wales (Psychiatric) Hospital in Talgarth. He formed a sexual relationship with the woman and became "infatuated" by ber, the court heard. But she called off the

meetings and began seeing Mr Crompton. Cole stabbed the couple to death after he apparently discovered them having sex.

He rained blows down upon the couple, put a tape recorder

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through the letter box of the bungalow where they were meeting and "flipped" when it recorded moans and groans.

Louise Jury

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD



Classical maverick cocks a snock at opera's old guard

Partition of Subbey is a larger than life impressario who has zione more than almost any one to bring classical music to the British masses. Now that thing to be to the British masses. Now that thing to be to take the British most a though the tribuse has their to story his near above, and the British most a state establishment is cold-chouldering thin, he told the Independent yesterday.

Gabbay, often support at by classical music's induler either (to his populish), affacted the Royal Opera House for overmanning and restrictive practices after grouping a co-production with them a few years ago. Now he has returned to the attack saying lettery groups is being masted on new build higs the public will not visit, that it is "arrogant" of the Poyal Opera and English National Opera to have no plans arroor the country, and that the major subsidied opera companies are scared of compendicine.

The head of the Royal Opera, Nicholas Payne, had a private meeting with him, he told us, and said, they wanted to do Carmen there themselves are Coverif Garden they can do what they like... It's projectionism, and why should I kow tow to it?"... Glubbay, 50, once worked for Pathe Newsreet, where he used to hold the lights outside Number 10 Downing Street. He became a concert promoter in the Sixtles and has carved out a reputation for his "classic spectacular" concerts with fireworks and lasers, and recitels by big-name artists such as Kirt Te Kanawa and Pavarotti, and The Teddy Bears concerts which have introduced young children to clasical music in a lighthearted and informal way. Carmen opens on 6 February and will run for 10

performances, with ticket prices all below £40. It is expected to play to over 40,000 people.

David Lister, Arts News Editor

Oldest survivor of the Titanic dies

at the age of 100 The oldest survivor of the Titanic disaster, Edith Haisman, has died aged 100. Only five survivors of them well into their 80s and 90s. Mrs Haisman was 15 when ahe made the fateful crossing with her family, who were hoping to make a new life in Seattle.

Her father, Thomas Brown, perished with 1,522 others on 14 April 1912 when the liner hit an

Along with her mother, Elizabeth, Mrs Haisman was one of the few who found space on a lifeboat. Throughout her life, Mrs Hais-

man was haunted by the memory. She said last year: "It was a long time ago that it happened, but you do not forget it. I had it for years on my mind, it never goes away." She also remembered that her father had a presentiment that something awful would occur. "As I

The mother of the missing Wiltshire

schoolgiri Zoe Evans yesterday

sald sha still desperately hopes

her daughter will be found alive.

Paula Evans, 28, speaking

through her lawyer, vehamently

denied she had anything to do

with the disappearance of the

was said to be "completely

drained and exhausted" and

nine-year-old. The mother of two



as walking up the gangplank, my father ... turned white. He had some sort of idea that snmething was gning to happen.

She last saw her father standing on deck, with a glass of brandy in one hand and a cigar in the other. He waved and said: "I will see you in New York."

Mother of missing Zoe protests innocence after release

remained at a secret address after

custody without charge. She and

Zoe's stepfather, Miles Evans, 23,

being released from police

an Army driver, were held for

questioning for 60 hours. Police tear the girl is dead.

Richard Griffiths, the solicitor

questioning, said yesterday: "Mrs

who represented her during the

Evans emphatically says she is

Parent rebels over truancy fine

A mother fined £1,000 for failing to strp her two leenage sons playing truant lodged an appeal yesterday as the boys returned to school for tha first lime in three months.

Carol Matthews, 36, was ordered to pay the fine, the maximum permitted by tha 1993 Education Act, after a court heard that Stephen, 16, and Wayne, 14, had not been to their south London school since October.

Miss Matthews, of Forest Hill. south-east London, had until yesterday to pay the fine or face possible arrest and perhaps even jail, but instead lodged an appeal, Greenwich magistrates court confirmed. The fine was put nn hold until after the appeal hearing.

A spokesman for Lewisham council, which tnok Miss Matthews to court, said: "Her two sons were at school today for the first time since October. This is an excellent first step. The teachers were extremely pleased to see them."

innocent of any involvement in the

disappearance of Zoe. Sha still

hopes against hope that Zoe is

alive somewhere and will turn up.

She is as anxious to help as any-

one, even when she herself does

not know the answers ... She un-

derstands the police have a duty to

discover what has happened. But

she has given all the help she can."

she has made it absolutely clear

briefing

EMPLOYMENT

Go on, tell your boss what you think of him

Telling your bosses what you think of them is good for the organisation, according to research by the Institute of Employment Studies. The so-called "360-degree review" in which the individual manager receives "personal feedback" from subordinates, colleagues and customers is essential for the development of executives who can be isolated and insulated, the institute found in a study of eight organisations including BT, the Post Office and BP.

However, the report counsels that criticism must be constructive because il can be "quite devastating". Such schemes have to be "formal" but not too highly structured, otherwise they can limit the amount recipients learn about

Personal Feedback: Cases in Point, Institute of Employment Studies, £27, from Grantham Book Services, Isaac Newton Way, Alma Park Industrial Estate, Grantham NG31 9SD. Barrie Clement



AGRICULTURE

Complacency over rural heritage

Ministers are complacent about the protection of England's most valuable agricultural land from irreversible development, it was claimed yesterday. The Council for the Protection of Rural England said the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food bad, between 1938 and 1995, failed to object to planning applications involving development un farmland over 10 times the size of

And over the same period, MAFF objected to applications for development on less that 25 per cent of the highest grade agricultural land and less than 20 per cent of land involving the

agricultura tand and less than to the full three grades.

"The figures reveal MAFF's continuing complacency towards protecting even our best farmland," said CPRE rural affairs officer, Gregor Hutcheon. MAFF's relaxed attitude risked squandering a vital and precious finite resource, he added.

SCHOOLS

Extra-curricular inactivity

Shortages of funds and teaching time are hampering schools efforts to boost pupils' academic performance through extra-curricular activities. A survey of 62 London schools by Education Extra, the foundation for after-school activities, such as sports, pastimes and even homweork clubs revealed 90 per cent of secondaries and 80 per cent of primaries hoping to increase their provision could not do so because staff were already

The majority also reported serious problems funding these activities despite believing they were vital to students' success. The findings come a week after government-backed research

indicated after-school clubs were as effective as homework in helping children achieve in the classroom. Capital Gains, £3.50 from Education Extra. St Margaret's House, 17 Old Ford Road, London, E2 9PL. Tel: 0181-983 1061.

Lucy Ward

FOOD

EU red tape blamed for hunger

Excessive blotechnology regulation by the European Union is perpetuating mass hunger, according to the Social Affairs Unit (SAU). Biotechnology is the use of nrganisms or parts in create goods and services, such as the controversial genetically modified soya, or the "flava-sava" tomato.

An SAU report says such advances could make it possible to feed the world and with an ever-increasing world population conservatively estimated to more than double to 11.3bn by 2010 -

agricultural production will have to increase dramatically. But the EU's decision to operate on the "cantionary principle" avoiding any potential risks, is censoring innovation, the report argues. Professor Henry Miller, farmer director of binlechnology at the US Food and Drug Administration, said: "Biotechnology is widely misanderstood. It is seen as a sci-fi Frankenstein monster."

Biotechnology Regulation, £5, the Social Affairs Unit, 314-322

Regent Street, London WIR 5AB. Tel: 0171 637 4356

Glenda Cooper

ENVIRONMENT

Cool times – but warmer climes

Global warming is continuing - despite cooler temperatures last year, according to new figures released by the Meteorological Office yesterday.

The temperature last year was about 0.21C warmer than the 30-year average, which is around 11C. But it is still some way behind the record change of 0.38C in 1995.

The 0.21C change may not seem remarkable, but a Met Office spokesman, Andy Yeatman, said: "Five degrees from one day to the next is neither bere not there. But last time the average global temperature was five degrees lower, we bad an ice age. So 0.21 of a degree is quite a significant change."



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news

Police

bugging

was a

shambles

An inquiry into the control of police telephone taps has uncovered sham-

bolic procedures that led to details

of 900 bugging operations apparently

Detectives called in to investigate how a corrupt colleague gained ac-cess in secret phnne transcripts for

a criminal had to trace 396 officers

fram 35 forces to find out what had happened to secret records that

should have been destroyed.

The Naumal Criminal Intelli-

gence Service (NCIS), which controls phone taps under the 1985 Intereption of Communications Act.

moved quickly vesterday in assure the public that all the records had now

been accounted for, but it could do nothing to hide the apparent lapses

in security over the most sensitive in-

formation available to police forces.

stable of Northumbria, was called in to investigate by NCIS in December 1995 after it emerged that lawyers act-ing for John Donald, a farmer South

East Regional Crime Squad officer, had details of a phone tap on a crim-

inat who was paying him. Donald.

whn should not have had access to the records, was subsequently jailed

Under interception legislation, senior nfficers are allowed to examinc the transcripts of bugging operations and can make notes to take away in specially issued and logged

notebooks which must be returned and destroyed at the end of investi-

gations. However, when he began his

inquiry, Mr Stevens found that

around 900 notebooks had appar-

ently not been returned. The nnly ad-

ministrative system was a ledger that was woefully incomplete.

During a 12-month inquiry in-volving 12 Northumbria detectives, all the unaccounted for notebooks

were either tracked down nr "ac-counted for". Asked whether some

nf the notebooks were traced in detectives' "offices, garages or bed-rooms", nne officer in the inquiry smiled and nodded.

Alhert Paccy, the director-general of NCIS who called in Mr

Stevens's team, said the inquiry bad

found no evidence that any infor-

mation had been lost or that any in-

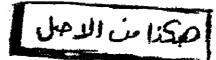
vestigations were compromised by

for 11 years for corruption.

John Stevens, the former chief con-

Steve Boggan

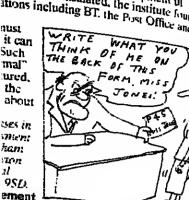
going astray.



UARY 1997 • THE INDEPENDEN

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v over rural heritage

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riod, MAFF objected to applications for 1.25 per cent of the highest grade se than 20 per cent of tand involving the

AFF's continuing complacency towards farmland." said CPRE rural affairs MAFF's relayed attitude risked precious finite resource, he added.

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planned for hunger

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is ever energies in world population to more than a mole to Habin by 2010and have to increase dramatically. to operate on the cautionary principle. the is represent the state the report Mother, former director of biotechnolog-Administration, said: "Biotechnologie is see to a mount frankenstein monster # \$3 \(\partial_{1}\) \(\partial_{2}\) \

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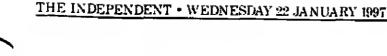
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Britain's revolutionary farm of the future: earth, wind, water and sun

Stephen Goodwin Heritage Correspondent

Britain's most amhitious green farming project, which its supporters claim is "a viable way to live in the 21st century, was yesterday given the stamp of afficial endorsement.

The scheme known as Earth Bal-ance yesterday announced a £1.3m second phase, about half of which comes from public sources, which will

"We are not trying to create a litherne park," said Mr Manchee, although eventually 85,000 visitors are expected to try the "hands-on"

at Bedlington. Northumherland. pragmatic, seeing whether it is pos-sible to run businesses on sustainable bakery and a brewery.

"What started as a fantasy is fast hecoming a reality," said Steve Manchee, the project director. "We will show people a viable way to live in the 21st Century.'

lines without detracting from their commercial viability."

The largest slice of the money, almost £500,000, will come from English Partnerships, the state-funded development agency. Northumber-land County Council and the EU

a "green theme park" such as the futuristic Earth Centre planned for Doncaster. Drawing inspiration from the Centre for Alternative Technology in rural Wales, Mr Manchee and his co-founders hope to show how local economies can be revived on sustainable lines.

The Green Man Bakery started trading last September with a capacity to produce 11,300 loaves or other hread products per week. By 1999 it should be using wheat from the farm and its ovens will be fired by wood from a willow coppice.

About £760,000 was spent on Barley grown on the farm will sup-ply the Northumberland Brewery.

bine via a three-acre hydrostorage lake. The lake will provide a trout fishery while a reedbed system will convert sewage into compost.

In addition to its main operations the farm also has three groups beavering away on their own ideas: re-cycling textiles and making small-

the circulation of notebooks. "As a result of the lapse, Mr Stevens has made a large number of recommendations, all of which I have accepted," said Mr Pacey. Mr Stevens, who examined Cus-tums and Excise controls on phone

taps as part of his inquiry, said: "We interviewed 396 serving or retired officers from 35 of the 43 farees and 1 am satisfied that all the original material has been accounted for. That does not mean that there are not photocopies about."

"I wish this had not happened." said Mr Pacey. "But at least I can re-assure the public by pointing out that, as soon as we realised something was wrong, we called an nutside force in to conduct an inquiry, we reported nurselves to the Parliamentary Commissioner and we alerted the media to show that we are fully accountable. Nnthing was swept under the carpet.

"Now, with new safeguards in place nr nn the way, we will dn our best to ensure there are no similar

but the carrots may taste of prawn cocktail

lan Burrell

Cheese-and-onion flavoured cauliflawer and prawn-cocktail flavoured carrots are in be marketed in children in try to overcome their aversion to vegetables and help protect them from cancer.

Iceland, the frozen-food retailer annunced the new range yesterday after Gordon McVie, director-general of the Cancer Research Cam-paign, made the suggestinn in an proaches were needed to make chil-

ucts after it published research which showed many mothers have given up the battle of feeding their children

Researchers at Strathchyde University found that in many homes Christmas dinner was the only meal when children were fed the recommended amount of vegetables. The

interview with the Independent. The dren more friendly towards vegeta-CRC has agreed to endorse the prod-ucts after it published research which greens did unt work and nor did work and nor di "cunning" ploys like smnthering vegetables in sauce or gravy. Malcolm Walker, Iceland's chief

executive said: "It's technically very easy to flavour frozen vegetables. You can already buy minted frozen peas. for instance, and maybe that's something we should pick up nn. While kids might not lead the ideal lifestyle, there could be an argument for sayknow, but we will have a go." Annther idea was to brand and

package vegetables in a mnre appealing way for children. The research team interviewed nine groups of working-class women

with children aged three to 16. Children expressed an "arbitrary and despotic" dislike nf vegetables, said Prnfessor Hastings. They tend-

times were arranged they could be a stressful battleground. The findings showed that sweetcorn and baked beans are mure acceptable to children than other types of vegetables, while soft greens like sprouts and cabbage are especially loathed.

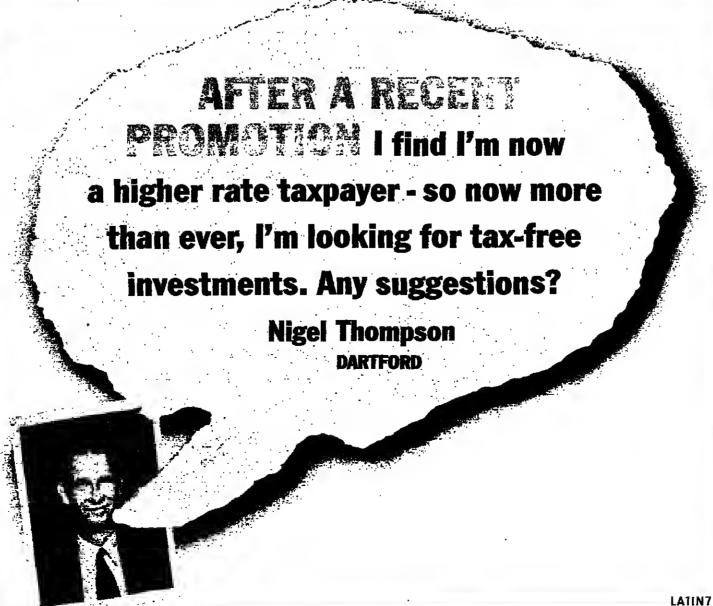
Prnfessor Hastings said health workers and retailers must jnin forces to alter the "cultural position"

was an "ennrmous task". Recent re-search for the Ministry of Agriculture showed that the UK's consumption of vegetables had decreased 30 per cent since 1970, while the trend for frozen food was increasing. Professor McVie said popping vitamin pills into the mouths of children is not the answer.

Leading article, page 13 problems in the future."



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нм Treasury



Inmates moved from riot jail

lan Burrell

Nearly 150 prisoners were vesterday removed from a high-security jail where prison riot 12-hour rampage by inmates.

The unrest at Full Sutton prison. York, was finally quelled vesterday morning when the riot squads stormed barricades and seized back control of two wings where inmates had been running amok.

As a police helicopter soared overhead, more than 50 fire officers moved into the jail to extinguish a series of blazes which prisoners had lit during the night. Sources at the jail yesterday described scenes of "widespread devastation".

One officer said: "Corridors have been gutted by fire, they have smashed their windows out, offices have been wrecked and the TV rooms have been smashed up. It will take months to get back to normal."
The trouble, which started at

6pm on Monday when the prisoners were unlocked from cells for evening association, is be-

lieved to have started when two troublesome inmates were being segregated by jail staff.

One of the inmates shouted out what is believed to have been squads fought to control a a signal to other prisoners to start the trouble. Within minutes the prisoners had taken control of the jail's B and C wings.

There had been tension in the jail for many weeks which may have been linked to a clampdown on the use of drugs. Earlier on Monday, staff told

governors that a group of seven ringleaders were seeking to spark trouble in the jail. The prison service said the damage would cost around

£5(0),000 to repair. Yesterday 146 inmates were being transferred to jails in Manchester, Durham and elsewhere to limit the chance of further trouble at

Full Sutton.
The transfers will add to the prison service's overcrowding problems, with the jail population at a record 60,000 and rising. The damage at Full Sutton will cause the loss of up to 200 places for high-security prisoners.



Test of dexterity: Quarry workers extracting sandstone from above St Bride's Bay in the **Pembrokeshire Coast** National Park where the quarry that supplied the original material to build St David's Cathedral north of the bay in the 12th century has been reopened to provide for the restoration of the west front (inset). Medieval methods of extraction are being used to avoid damage and pollution from blasting. Photographs: Rob Stratton



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Loyalists' place at table in jeopardy

David McKittrick Ireland Correspondent

The Government yesterday issued a pointed public warning to loyalist groups that more violence would jeopardise the place at the conference table which is occupied by "fringe loy-alist" parties.

The Northern Ireland Office said in a statement that violent attacks "inevitably raise questions" over the position of the Progressive Unionist party and Ulster Democratic party. The parties are seen as speaking for, respectively, the Ulster Volunteer Force and Ulster Defence Association, both of which are illegal aramilitary organisations.

The statement is seen as a response to Monday's boobytrap attack on a family in Larne, Co Antrim. A hand grenade exploded underneath a van holding a Catholic couple and their five-month-old haby, but none of them was injured. The UVF has a significant presence in the

The NIO had received a barrage of criticism for its perceived reluctance to attribute two previous boobytrap attacks to lovatists, even though security sources held them responsible, and loyalists themselves pri-

vately admitted involvement. Officially, the Government and the fringe parties maintain that the loyalist ceasefire is holding. But it is evident that the NIO has become increasingly worried about its public posi-tion, which was rendered highy uncomfortable following RUC Chief Constable Ronnic Flanagan's acknowledgement that the first two bombs were

planted by loyalists.
The NIO statement said: "The Government shares the increasing public concern that has arisen as the result of recent carbomb attacks, the first two of which have been all ributed by the Chief Constable to loyalist extremists. Those incidents, and possible that at Larne yesover the position of the two parties associated with the loyalist paramilitaries."

It is open to participants in the political talks to raise the issue, and possibly seek the expulsion of the lovalists, during a plenary session to be held on Monday next. At the moment however the signs are that most parties are reluctant to press the

The Ulster Unionist MP Ken Maginois said his party would not seek their expulsion, saying there had been a significant con-trast in the leadership being given hy loyalist political spokesmen and the Sinn Fein leadership. But he added: "Obviously there could come a point when the weight of activity overrides that point of view."

Ian Paisley jun of the Democratic Unionist party said his party was waiting for the Government to take the initiative. He added: "Quite obviously the British government want everyone else to do their dirty work for them. We are saying to them You have the statements from the RUC, you are a participant in the talks, you bring forward the indictment'. ■ Retations between John Major and David Trimble were strained last night after the UIster Unionist leader emerged without concessions from a meeting with the Prime Minister at his private room at the House of Commons, writes

Colin Brown. With the Ulster Unionists threatening to vote against the Government in a Commons vote last night, Mr Trimble's party appeared to ready to assen its authority, holding the

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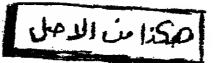
ENDENT O

on 26 Jan

balance at Westminster. Mr Trimble privately criticised the Northern Ireland Secretary, Sir Patrick Mayhew, of inaction in the face of the collapsing ceasefire and the worsening security situation. He served notice that the places occupied by the Loyalists at the cross-party talks would be chal-

terday, inevitably raise questions lenged on Monday. Direct Line Instant Access Account Small space. Big savings rate. (5,000-(9,999 £10,000-£24,999 5.50% £25,000-£49,999 0181 667 1121 0161 833 1121 0141 221 1121 LONDON MANCHESTER GLASGOW CALL ANYTIME 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 5pm Saturday. Please quote ref. IND33 Calls are recorded for your added security. Direct Line and the red triephone are trademarks of Direct Line Insurance pic. used with its permission. Rates subject to variation.

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THE INDEPENDENT • WEDNESDAY 22 JANUARY 1997

Bedlam as psychiatric services collapse

London runs out of beds as violence rises

Glenda Cooper

London is failing the mentally ill, with services are near to collapse and unable to sustain the demands made on them, according to the most comprehensive study ever undertaken into mental health provision in

The capital is running out of beds, there are more acts of violence, more patients compulsorily detained and higher rates of admission than in any other part of the country, according to the King's Fund which produced the 400-page report.

It said that care in the community services are insufficient to cope with patients that do not quality for secure beds. There are huge variations in residential care facilities across London and home treatment is available in only a few areas. London has been at the cen-

6 The crisis is not due to meanness or stick-in-the-mud attitudes 9

tre of the debate over the treatment of the mentally ill with a succession of high-profile carein the community failures among them the schizophren-ies Christopher Clunis and Stepheo Laudat, who went on to kill. A government report last year listing authorities that could not provide comprehensive mental health services before 1997 was dominated by London boroughs.

Rates for psychosis in inner London are double those of other inner cities and the higher admission thresholds in Londoo mean that patients who are not psychotic or have not been compulsorily detained are less likely to gain access to an acute bed than in other parts of the

The Secretary of State for Health, Stephen Dorrell, said he acknowledged that mental health services in London were under pressure, but said that the Government had already responded to the problems.
"Mental health has for many years been the Cinderella service but in the last five years there has been a striking shift in priorities." he said. "The London, W1M 0AN price £15.

funding formula has been changed to reflect the fact that there is a higher incidence of mental illness in London and consequently greater pressure on the services. We will keep the formula under review and if it can be demonstrated that it is not appropriately reflecting patient need then we will change it again."

But mental health charities said the report confirmed their worst fears and criticised ounisters for not doing more to prevent the crisis. The charity Mind blamed the Government's "negligent" underfunding of community care for the "exceptionally difficult circumstances" in the capital, "For years, Mind has been

warning the Government that the failure to properly fund comprehensive community care would lead to a crisis," said Judi Clements, the charity's national director, "The failures highlighted by this report, and many others before, deserve a consideted response from government, and not more knee-jerk reactions designed to boost opinion poll ratings," Marjorie Wallace, chief ex-

ecutive of the charity Sane, called for a moratorium on bed closutes. "It is disgraceful that seriously mentally ill people are either discharged too early or are not admitted to hospital for the care and treatment they need," she said. "Instead, they are being squeezed into hospital corridors ... forcing psychiatrists to make intolerable choices.'

The report said that delays in getting a bed were frequent, with the average wait for admission to a secure unit being 24 hours, and seven weeks for residential accommodation with 24-hour staffing. The voluntary sector is having to play a larger role in providing care in the community while high intensity 24-hour community services are almost entirely absent.

"The findings ... describe a service in inner London that cannot be sustained because it is unable to meet the demands imposed on it," said the report.

"The crisis in inner Loodon is not due to meanness among London's purchasers or to stickin-the-mud attitudes among providers. The formulae for allocation resources to deprived inner city areas need to be revisited.

■ London's Mental Health; available from the George Godber bookshop at the King's Fuod, 11-13 Cavendish Square,

WILL THE BARREL

SCRAPERS OR THE

BLACK DOG

BOOZERS RULE AT THE

BRITISH MARBLES

CHAMPIONSHIPS?

ESSENTIAL

EVENTS

OF 199711

on 26 January 1997

INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

in association with

Don't miss the



The human factor: Dr Mark Salter (left) with 'Pete', a patient for 10 years

'Schizbusters' in need of a miracle

1t's like a mad game of pass the parcel," says Mark Salter in exasperated tones as he looks at the list of cases. It is the beginning of another normal day as a consultant psychiatrist in Stoke Newington, north London, writes

Glenda Cooper. In the following eight hours his team deal with a torture victim, a violent schizophrenic and a man who believes he is paralysed.

Married with two children, Dr Salter, 37, has worked in the area for 10 years. His team of 20 has 1,700 eases on the books at any one time. "We are supposed to have all the answers but we need a miracle to do what we need to. My team does a great job but there is not adequate funding in London."

From 9.15am the stream of patients begins - success stories like Sara, 16, whose sassiness belies her drug problems, or Paul, a highly intelligent schizophrenic who has knuckled down to take his medication. They are followed by Hassan, a Turkish victim of torture suffering post traumatic stress disorder after the deaths of his family, and Frank, whose mental problems are exacerbated Photograph: Bnan Hams by paedophiliae tendencies.

Outside, aggressive twin brothers - both schizophrenics - have turned up to get their

prescriptions. Dr Salter and their keyworker try to calm them down. It is 1pm and after a quick bite in a greasy spoon Dr Salter races out on community visits.

The first is a deluded Bengali woman who is convinced that people are using her flat as a brothel. The second stop is a gloomy flat with overflowing ashtrays and the stench of urine. Dr Salter is seeing Iain, who thinks he is paralysed down one side although he has nothing medically wrong with him. His partnet Mary is an alcoholic who rarely moves from her bedroom.

The last case is John, a violent schizophrenic who may have stopped taking his medication.
"What do we do?" Dr Salter says. We have to respect people's rights - we can't just take people in for apparently no reason because we're worried. But theo if we don't and be starts taking someone's face off with a crowbar, Joe Public will blame us and say we should have done something." .4ll names and some details have been changed.

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Two more sincere champions could not be found for a more important debate. The passionate Europhobe, Teresa Gorman (Con. Billericay) had tabled a ten-minute rule Bill for a referendum to be held on our continuing membership of the EU. Denis MacShane (Lab. Rotherham), a long-standing advocate of closer ties with Europe, sought to oppose the motion. The result was hilarious.

Teresa opened so full of feeling on the subject of being ruled by foreigners, that her words couldn't emerge at the rate that her emotions demanded. They began to build up behind her teeth, weighing down on her

Aaronovitch

Swineherd and wench do battle over Europe

tongue and blocking her throat. Only with great difficulty did sentences emerge naturally or coherently.

But even when coherent these phrases were odd, suggesting that Ms Gorman exists in a parallel

dimension. When she met ordinary folk "in pubs, clubs and supermarkets" (I am looking forward to the MP who admits to meeting constituents in "bathrooms, brothels and bettingshops") they did not complain

about the health service ("they think it's splendid), or schools "they're excellent), but about Europe. "The one question they all ask," she informed the House, is when are you going to do something about Europe?" Until then I had believed Billericay was in Essex, but now know that it is somewhere between the Crab

Nebula and the Klingon Empire. Her local butcher couldn't use his old chopping-board because of the Eurocrats, the fish and chip shop had a sign saying "hands off British fish" and one member of the public had repudiated the euro, on the basis that he "didn't want a pocket full of bottle-tops". We all remember, she said, what

happened with decimalisation (hear, hear, yelled Congleton's Anne Winterton). With this clinching argument made, Ms Gorman sat down.

Time for a rare moment of parliamentary glory for Denis MacShane. I like Denis; he is clever and genial. And he is also desperate. His almost crippling desire to be in the big league shouts from his sharp suits and shricks from the crisply folded hankie in his breast pocket. "Please, please, please, make me a shadow spokesthing!" it yells.

And there is no answer. It was Denis's awareness of his opponent's tenuous hold on things terrestrial, that led him

into terrible error - he decided to ridicule her. "The honourable lady is an adornment to the House," he scoffed, "we all love her!" Up till now (he went on) the Europhobes had had it all their own way. But, he warned, "the Iron Maiden of Truth will clamp around the farrage of halftruths and misleading phrases". I can only imagine that the erudite MacShane was quoting from an idiomatic Portuguese poem.

Worse followed. Ms Gorman was, he said, "a chirruping chimpanzee" behind whom stood an organ-grinder with a deeper purpose". By now the press gallery (which is full of naturelovers who know that chirrupy

things are small and fly - and that chimps are hig and do not take to the air voluntarily) was falling about with mirth. The Labour benches, on the other hand, were stiff with mortification.

When the speeches were over, both sides realised that a tournament had been held - but that somehow, instead of Sir Wilfred of Ivanhoe wielding longsword for Saxon England and Brian de Bois Guilbert hrandishing mace-and-chain for Norman chivalry. Wart the swineherd and Etta the badtempered serving wench from the great hall had put on the armour and entered the lists. They were

not amused.

PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTIONS

John

Major presented an NHS in a better state than ever as a result of being in Conservative hands for two thirds of its lifetime. Labour's criticisms were dismissed by Major as an insult to the serv ice.

Blair's argued that Labour built the NHS, which should be run again as a "proper co-operative ser-vice, not hospital against hospital, doctor against doctor, and the only party that will rebuild the NHS is the party that created it. Pointlessly, both leaders only presented their stock image of the NHS.

THEMES OF THE DAY Crisis in the NHS (every Labour question)

Labour's tax plans (every Conservative question but one) The riot at Full Sutton prison(John Greenway, C. Ryedale) Police (Sentencing) Bill defeat in Lords (Paddy Ashdown)

Biair asked whether Major disputed hospital figures on children turned away from one hospital to seek intensive care at another. Major responded, in the light of the Shadow Chancellor's tight spending pledge on Monday, could Labour do any better without any extra mor do any better without any extra money? After briefly looking as though he would tighten the screw over children turned away from hospitals, Blair managed to broaden his questions so much that Ma-



John Major

created since 1990. Major replied the

quotes on managers are wrong. Government statistics say 20,902.

figures that the Rt. Hon Gent

Anne Campbell's (Lab, Cambridge) di-

rect question on paediatric intensive care beds at Addenbroke's Hospital laid Blek's groundwork, She will earn points from the Labour question-fixers.

Ashdown asked whether the Home Secretary would note that if he wished to amend the Police (Sentencing) Bill in a more Liber-al direction, 'we stand ready to participate'. Despite calls of "what an offer!", Major declined to accept on Michael Howard's behalf.

Patrick Cormack (C. Staffordshire South) asked the Prime Minister "Would my Rt Hon Friend remind those who istened with in-credulity to the speech of the Shadow Chancellor yesterday, that utation is the sincerest form of flattery, it is no substitute for the original? Compiled by Ben Summers

Lords vote to compensate shooting clubs

Fran Abrams Political Correspondent

The Home Office was dealt yet another defeat in the House of Lords last night when rebel Tory peers voted for compensation for gun club owners who suffer losses because of the han on handguns over 22 calibre.

Following Monday's defeats on the Police Bill, the Lords vot-ed by 158 to 135 in favour of an amendment to the Firearms (Amendment) Bill which would enable club owners to claim compensation. An amendment to compensate dealers was rejected by 147 to 120.

The Bill proposes market value compensation to individuals for the loss of their weapons and, for higher calibre guns, for accessories. The Government estimates the cost at £150 million, and last night's defeat would add to that cost - or delay the legislation if the Government tries to reverse the de-

Home Office minister of state, Baroness Blatch told peers: "It would be a complete departure from precedent and one which we could not support for the taxpayer to be asked to meet losses of this kind which were attributed to the prohibition of handguns."

The defeat came despite a many people hankrupt," call by Labour frontbencher warned. Lord McIntosh of Haringey to his colleagues to oppose any move that would weaken the Bill or add to its cost.

Last night's successful amendment was was tabled by the Earl of Shrewsbury, chairman of the Firearms Consultative Committee, to compensate operators of a target shooting club or association that went out of business as a result of the government Bill.

The Home Office was last night examining the implications of the Lords defeat for the future of the legislation. The amendment passed in the Lords has significant economic implications and we are studying them carefully," a spokesman

Opening the dehate, Lord Shrewsbury said: "I firmly believe that the present plans will lead to injustice. Many of the worst hit by this Bill will be ordinary club members who have pitched together to run their clubs or ranges."

A survey of 139 of the UK's

2,067 gun clubs had found that 71 per cent would be unable to afford the new security arrange-ments required for .22 armouries. Returns from 126 clubs had put financial losses at £31 million. "This will leave

Meanwhile, the Government was facing a tight Commons vote on the National Health Service. Labour claims that more than 400 children have been turned away from intensive care beds in four months were dismissed by the Prime Minister during question time. The accusations and counter-accusations came after the Labour Party leader, Tony Blair, berated the Prime Minister for the Conservative Party's record. "It is not good enough for him and for government ministers to conceal the true state of affairs,"

Mr Major was later accused by a Labour MP of misleading the house when he said that the opposition's report on the crisis was "alarmist nonsense."

"Every child needing a paediatric intensive bed has been found one," the Prime Minister said. The Secretary of State for Health, Stephen Dorrell, said later in a debate called by Labour on the health service that 40 cases had been referred since 1 December, through a new emergency service set up to deal with problems in find-ing hospital places. All of them were offered at least two pae-diatric intensive care beds, he



Class of '97: Members of the National Association of Head Teachers lobbying MPs in Westminster yesterday against planned changes to teachers' pension rules which, they say, would virtually cut off their route to early retirement

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Gorman 'insulted' by Chief Whip over referendum Bill

Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

Teresa Gorman yesterday said she was "insulted" by the Chief Whip, Alastair Goodlad, as the Government attempted to force her to drop a backbench European referendum Bill which threatened an embarrassing split in the Government.

Mrs Gorman told how Mr Goodlad last week called her into his office to warn her that she would be helping Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party, if she pressed ahead.
"I informed him it was nev-

er in my mind. It was a hit insulting to suggest that any member of the Commons would be dancing to someone else's tune. I am not.

The Government and Labour front benches yesterday ducked a potentially embar-rassing split in both camps by avoiding any vote on her Bill. It went through "on the nod",



she was hetping Goldsmith

forward to oppose it. This has avoided a split on our side and Labour clearly didn't want the embarrassment either".

Gorman: Warned

because no tellers were put A leading Euro-sceptic said:

announced he would vote for it.

Mrs Gorman accused the whips of putting pressure on her and the supporters of the Bill. among those urging unity by not supporting the Bill. Mrs Gorman was impervious Never has so much been donc by so many on so few. It is a bit

of a landmark. I am up against almost a three-line whip. The whips had gone round the week before warning MPs who might support Mrs Gor-man's Bill that it would damage Tory election chances. By Monday it was realised that this tactic was beginning to backfire. Some leading Euro-sceptics

have been reluctant to support the Bill to avoid accusations of disunity. But on Monday, after hostile reports suggested he was not to be trusted by Eurosceptics. John Redwood told allies he would back it. Bill Cash, another key Euro-sceptic, also

At that stage the whips left it to other right-wing Tories to press their colleagues into line. David Shaw, MP for Dover, who has a wafer-thin majority, was

to threats. Along with seven colleagues, she lost the whip earlier in the Parliament over her rebellions on Europe. She was not intimidated now. Wearing a Thatcherite steely blue suit, and accompanied by Teddy Tay-lor, she held a press conference to insist she was doing it for her constituents in Billericay, Essex. "I could not face the people in the Con Club in the High Street in Billericay on Saturday if I ditched this Bill. They will think I had turned yellow," she said.

"They want someone to put their view across. All the analysts said Essex was the place where the election was won in 1992] - strong working class Tories with a strong sense of country and patriotism.

"They will be queueing up to vote Conservative if we listen to them and take on board their

Police Bill set

Patricia Wynn Davies Legal Affairs Editor

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, was yesterday expected to reach a compromise with the Opposition over the authorisation of controversial police powers to enter and bug private property, in the wake of the double defeat by peers of a key part of the Police Bill on Monday night.

The climbdown is likely to come ahead of the Third Reading of the measure next Tuesday, following discussions yesterday between Mr Howard and his Labour shadow, Jack

The Government had wanted to give police the power to install surveillance equipment without having to get approval from a judge, and the Associa-tion of Chief Police Officers insisted yesterday that opposition amendments insisting on judicial authorisation would "sig-

nificantly hamper" police efforts against serious and organised

But attempting to reverse the defeat when the Bill reaches the Commons would be a high-risk exercise because of the lack of a Commons majority and limited parliamentary time. Government amendments are expected to be tabled by the end of this week.

Labour's amendment on Monday night called for prior authorisation by one of a panel of senior judges acting as commissioners in respect of intrusive surveillance on premises and in respect of doctors. lawyers and journalists, except in urgent cases. Peers backed it by 209 votes to 145.

Following his meetings with Mr Howard, Mr Straw said: "I believe that, provided the Government accepts the spirit of the amendment from the Labour Party, cross-party understanding will be possible."

Foreign Office to be salvaged let arms through

Anthony Bevins Political Editor

The Foreign Secretary, Mal-colm Rifkind, last night accept-ed severe criticism of a Foreign Office hreakdown in imple-menting the 1994 United Nations arms embargo against Rwanda.

An inter-departmental Whitehall committee was set up to investigate arms trafficking last November after journalists discovered documents in eastern Zaire suggesting that United kingdom-based companies or individuals had been involved in the supply of arms from third countries to Rwandan extremists in Zaire during 1994. It was alleged that the supplies had been organised through Mil-Tec Corporation Ltd, registered in the Isle of Man.

The arms embargo was adopt-ed by the UN on 17 May 1994 and promptly implemented in UK law by a legislative Order in Council the following month. But

action to extend the provisions to Dependent Territories was not taken until April 1995 and work to apply the law to the Crown De-

pendencies - the Isle of Man and

Channel Islands - "was not treated as a high priority".

The Foreign Office did nothing until August 1994 - "after the period over which Mil-Tec is alleged to have organised arms supplies" - and then, in January 1995, asked the Home Office to introduce the necessary orders for arms embargoes covering Rwanda, former Yu-

goslavia, Liberia and Somalia. The Home Office then commissioned work on the orders. but the work was not treated as a high priority until the recent Mil-Tec allegations emerged." the committee said.

The committee delivered its report on 17 December, and the necessary orders were made two days later - more than two years after the UN embargo had taken effect.

angel new d codes i milli

news

ARY 1997 • THE INDEPENDENT

When the speeches were over both sides realised that a tournament had been held - hu that somehow, instead of Sir Wilfred of Ivanhoe wielding longsword for Saxon England and Brian de Bois Guilben brandishing mace-and-chain his Norman chivalry. Wari the swineherd and Etta the had. tempered serving weach from the great hall had put on the armon and entered the lists. They were



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Anger at new dial codes for 8 million

Chris Godsmark Business Correspondent

Plans to change tetephone dialling codes for 8 million households run into controversy last night as British Telecom warned that it had reservations about aspects of the scheme, Oftel, the industry watch-

dog, vesterday confirmed that from 2000 the dialling codes for London, Nnrihern Ireland. Cardiff, Portsmouth and Southampton would change as part of a longer term shake-up of telephone numbers who could one day see the UK move from local to regional codes. Don Cruickshank, the tele-

Franklin Gothic

1912: The first automatic ex-change opened in Epsom in 1958; Trunk dialing around the

UK introduced. 1966: Letters phased out - no more "Whitehall 1212" for Scotland Yard. 1976: Last manual exchange went out of service in Skye.

1990: London code changed from 01 to 071 and 081 for inner and outer London. 1995: Prefix 0 replaced by 01 in all dialling codes.

phones regulator, insisted the changes would ultimately add billions of new numbers, enough to make the new system "future-proof." But BT complained that the new system went beyond Mr Cruickshank's original proposals, launched last summer, and would cause problems for customers.

Labour's consumer affairs pokesman, Nigel Griffiths, said Mr Cruickshank should be suspended from office for going back on a firm pledge made hcfore the last numbering changes in 1995. Quoting a BBC transcript from the edition of Newsnight broadcast on 6 March 1995, Mr Griffiths claimed Mr

we've put 1 in front of all the present numbers in the UK, no one who has such a number will have to change again during their lifetime.

Mr Griffiths said: "The failure to listen to experts, and the persistent denial of a further number change, makes the director-general's position virtually untenable."

The new system, prompted by a massive demand for phone numbers with the explosion of fax machines and e-mail addresses, replaces London's two diatling codes, 0171 and 0181 with a return to a single code for the whole city, 020. Existing seven-digit numbers will grow to eight digits.

The most radical alteration i for Northern Ireland, where after what Mr Cruickshank insisted had been full consultation a single code, 028, will be in-troduced. He said he had raised the option of a single code for Wales, but this had been rejected by local interest groups. But it is the plan to merge the

codes for Portsmouth and Southampton into 023 which concerned BT. Mr Cruickshank raises the radical prospect that other UK towns could switch to regional codes hefore 2010 if councils agree. It means calls from Portsmouth to Southampton, or vice-versa, will appear like local calls even though they are charged as trunk calls at higher rates.

A BT spokesman commented: "We were surprised by this, It wasn't part of the original consultation document. It could lead to confusion where customers are using local dialling to reach another city."

Mr Cruickshank refused to be drawn on the cost for business of the changes, but said estimates of £1hn were far too high. "The real cost would be if cities began to run out of

Witness 'out to get Grobbelaar'

in the trial of three footballers not to the police. Mr Vincent facing match-rigging charges told a court yesterday that part of his purpose in exposing the alleged malpractice was to destroy the former Liverpool goalkeeper Bruce Grohbelaar. Christopher Vincent, a for-

mer friend and business associate, told Winchester Crown Court that he held Mr Grobbelaar heavily responsible, though not entirely responsible, for the failure of their safari business in Zimbabwe, and this was one of the reasons why he went in a newspaper with his

Cross-examined by Rodney Klevan OC, for Mr Grobbelaar, Mr Vincent agreed he stood to henefit financially from the outcome of the trial.

Asked if he was wholly when I first reported the matter to the Sun newspaper I was not aware of the fact that it was going to trial, or that I would make any money from it." Mr Klevan pointed out that

The main prosecution witness Mr Vincent went to the Sun and agreed he had known the newspaper might pay for what he had to say. Mr Klevan asked: "You were concerned first of all to make sure you were going to benefit financially by whatever you had to say. Is that right?" Mr Vincent replied: "Correct."

Mr Klevan asked: "If you could kill two hirds with one stone, you would do so, to make financial profit for yourself and destroy Bruce Grobbelaar?"

Mr Vincent: "Correct, sir." Mr Klevan: "You had been his friend, but you were willing to sell the story and destroy him?" Mr Vincent: "After events in Zimbabwe, yes, sir."

Mr Grobbelaar, 39, the former Wimhledon players John Fashanu, 34, and Hans Segers. ohjective, if he stood to gain 35, and a Malaysian business-financially, he said: "I think man, Heng Suan Lim, 31, deny conspiracy to give and accept corrupt payments. Mr Grobbelaar also denies another charge that he accepted £2,000 as an inducement to influence a match. The trial continues.

DAILY POEM

"When the hard North wind blows . . . "

By Rosalia de Castro, translated by Edwin Morgan

When wind is hard in the north And fire leaps in the hearth And they come shrough my door, Hungry, like skeletons in rags, The cold freezes my spirit As it splits their flesh apart. And sceing them go comfortless Shakes my very heart, Takes it where desolation And chains and darkness are.

A child, and already a stronger To the habit of tears: Miscry dries the soul And the need to weep; A child, already old In his gestures and deeds. Beggar, how you seize life! Precocious as evil. Implacable as hatred. Hard as truth's teeth.

Rosalia de Castro (1838-1885), illegitimate daughter of a priest and an aristocrat, played a leading part in the 19th-century revival of the Galician language and culture of north-western Spain. This poem comes from Edwin Morgan's Collected Translations from many languages into both the English and Scots tongues (published by Carcanet).

House of Chanel is a girl's best friend



Stepping out in style yesterday at the Ritz Hatel in Paris, two models display the latest haute couture creations from the house of Chanel. Security was even tighter than

Schools

research

'is waste

of money'

research that comes up with hlindingly obvious results, Chris Woodhead, the chief inspector

of schools said yesterday. In his first speech since he was endorsed by Tony Blair, the Labour leader, Mr Woodhead, repeated his attacks on the

education establishment which

have led critics to accuse him

of aligning himself with

In a lecture to the Royal

Geographical Society. Mr

Woodhead had a message for Mr Blair: "The key

responsibility facing the next government, whatever its

political hue, is to ensure that

the old orthodoxies and systems

A review of recent research,

he said, revealed that "effective

leadership" in school is usual-

ly "firm and purposeful" and

that successful schools "are

more likely to be calm rather

And a £750,000 project last

year came up with conclusions

that pre-school children learn a

lot if they are properly taught

and that pupils make little progress in maths and science

if they have failed to grasp the

"Do such hlindingly obvious

statements constitute a proper

He issued a strong warning against giving local authorities too much power to intervene in

schools, in apparent contradic-tion of both Gillian Shepbard,

the Secretary of State for Edu-

cation, and David Blunkett,

There was a danger that "the business of advice and support

will become an industry and will

begin to generate a new set of

But Professor Ted Wragg, of

Exeter University's department

of education, said: "Ofsted

reports cost millions and they

are full of banalities, many of which are uttered by Chris

Woodhead. It is easy to pick

off general conclusions to

research projects which are full

Robin Squire, the schools'

minister, said yesterday that

the Government had no plans

to change governing bodies'

powers to decide the length of

His remarks run counter to

reports that the Prime Minister

wants proposals to lengthen the school day to form part of

the manifesto. Labour said Mr

Squire's announcement showed

the confusion in the Govern-

ment's education policy.

of detail.

the school day.

her Labour shadow.

orthodoxies", be said.

return for taxpayers' money?

than chaotic places".

basic concepts.

continue to be challenged."

traditionalist right-wingers.

Judith Judd

Education Editor

usual at the show, as the company is launching a new line of jewellery in the spring.

of diamonds - including a near-

Tens of thousands of pounds worth

priceless jewel-encrusted comet

choker worn by the Scottish model, Kirsty Hume - glittered among the featherlight chiffon, feathers

One model, pictured left, wore a revealing creation seemingly made out of thick, twisted white string. Galliano: the fashion king, page 14 Photographs: Ben Elwes/AFP | a three-year period.

Drivers written off as failures

James Cusick

Half of Britain's motorists believe they would fail if they had to resit the new driving examination. The prospect of 13 million self-confessed failures driving around was revealed yesterday in a survey.

The annual Lex Report on Motoring, produced by the sales and leasing group, found that 81 per cent of drivers support the introduction of the new iest, which incorporates a written test. However, although drivers are convinced the practical test still ensures the delivery of safe drivers, 59 per cent think they would fail the current test if they were forced to take

it again. It means that if the Government considered compulsory re-testing, the roads could face a big reduction in traffic while drivers brushed up their road knowledge. As part of the report, the Lex group asked respondents three questions from the written test. A quarter got all the questions wrong, 49 per cent got only one question wrong, and only 5 per cent got three correct.

With road-rage cases in the news, the report found that 36 per cent of motorists want the Government to concentrate on road-rage campaigns. The majority of drivers in the survey admitted to feelings of road rage. ■ The Government yesterday confirmed plans to toughen laws for newly qualified drivers. John Bowis, a transport minister, said that from 1 June new drivers will lose their full licence if they incur six penalty points within two years. At present drivers lose their licence if they clock up 12 penalty points over



Limited availability

valid from 1st January to 31st March 1997 for werkend story on a room and brealdest basis. Hilton Weekends available between Than - Sun includivic (Thursday arrivals require Saturday hight stay). One and two right stays are available, Rates subject to availability. This offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other emetional effer or discount. The third eight free is inclusive of heri and breakfast. Californ stay tree in their own room is valid at Hilton's 11 Family Fun di

The EU years: A quarter of a century ago today, the UK signed up for the Common Market. So what has it done for us?

Twenty-five years of the European dream that have changed the face of Britain

How the birth of a vision has turned sour

It is 25 years since the signature of the British Treaty of Accession to the European Community, now called the EU.

As it happens, this was one of the rather rare moments in the chequered history of our relations with the EU when I was

not physically present. But I was very much there in spirit, having worked with Sir Pierson Dixon, the leader of the official delegation under Ted Heath in the first Brussels negotiations, and bitterly rescut-ed de Gaulle's veto in 1963. During the 1960s I had be-

come wholly convinced that British membership of the EC was essential for Britain and im-

portant for Europe. So the signature of the Accession Treaty was a wonderful moment for me, followed within a couple of months by a call from the Foreign Office to tell me to return from Washington and hecome head of the (then only) European Integration

6 Alas, ever since John Major declared that Britain's place must be at the heart of

Europe, we have been sliding into the periphery 9

Department in the Foreign Of-fice. Since then the EU has been part of my life - Under-Secretary in charge of "re-negotiation Callaghan as Foreign Secretary: Deputy-Secretary in charge of Europe and Eco-nomic Affairs when the European Monetary System was created in 1978-79; Permanent Representative in Brussels un-der Margaret Thatcher (1979-85), when we solved the British budget problem after five years' negotiation and launched the campaign for the Single Market; Chairman of the City's Euro-pean Committee (1988-93) and originator of the British government's "hard-ecu" plan in 1990; and now, finally, Labour's Special Envoy on Enlargement.

We have had our successful moments - the two-to-one vote in the 1975 referendum, the huge and permanent refund of our excessive net contribution to the EU hudget agreed at Fontainebleau in 1984, and above all, the launching of the Single Market at Margaret



Butler, Labour's EU envoy, looks back on Britain's European

adventure

Thatcher's initiative with the Treary amendments agreed at Luxembourg in December 1985 in the Single European Act.

But alas, ever since John Major declared in 1992 - no doubt he meant it - that Britain's place must be at the heart of Europe, we have heen sliding steadily on to the pe-

Here we find ourselves in 1997, after 25 years of memhership, with less understanding of the issues than we had 20

The people of this country have been told by the so-called Euro-sceptics for the last five years that Germany and France are about to create a "federation", a government of the United States of Europe, which will result in Britain being abolished. A majority of them seem to believe this nonsense. I can assure readers that there are no Freochmen who want to abolish Francel

The Maastricht Treaty of 1992 is responsible for much of this. It is incomprehensible. It lays down a very high-risk and rushed route to Mooetary Union - a route, incidentally, which it may yet prove imprac-tical for the EU to follow.

Though I may be being a little unfair, I hlame John Major to some extent even for Maas-tricht. If he had not been so intent on securing opt-outs from EMU and the Social Chapters he could have deployed his persuasive and negotiating skills to improving the substance.

Things have now got even worse. Having negligently allowed the BSE crisis to happen, the Cahinet, terrified by the Euro-sceptics, tried "non-cooperation" ie, vetoing things we were in favour of.

Not surprisingly, this did not work. We have also taken an ideological and negative line in the IGC designed to prepare for

The consequence of thus ap-peasing our ill-informed Eurosceptics has thus been to reduce our influence to the lowest point ever. It is time for a fresh



Du pain, du vin, du Boursin

Europe Editor

Need some nappies? Or do you need to hrush up your Dutch. Finnish or Portuguese? You could kill both hirds with one stone these days, because the labelling on the packet will asually be in five or six European languages as well as English.

The same is true for all sorts of food, clothes, toys and other products such as computers, televisions and cameras whose instruction leaflets are in French, German, Italian and Spanish as well as English. The basics of shopping may not have changed enormously from 1972 to 1997, but the experience certainly feels more European. Many, probably most Britons still carry the stiff-backed bluck passport that was standard issue 25 years ago. However, it has become increasingly common in recent years to see the smaller, flexible, marooncoloured European-style British passport whipped out at passenger control points.

The newer passport, marked European lager, more cappuccino, more espresso. All Community on its cover and first page, does not transform a Briton into a "citizen of Europe" in any legal sense. Bot according to those who possess one, it alters one's sense of identity - by broadening it rather

than by diluting it. Remember the old television advertisement of about 25 years ago that went "Beanz Meanz Heinz"? Today's equivalent is surely the nue that goes "Du pain, du vin, du Boursin".

Commercials have been Europeanised, to the point where a few do not even bother to make their point in English. Sensual Freuch actresses, majestic Italian music and romantic German scenery sends the message that Europe is sophisticated and

thing else: that Europe is home.

Tastes in food and drink have shifted po-

sorts of cheeses, sausage, cold meats and pasta are found on British plates that would not have been there 25 years ago. Cities all over the country have restaurants, bars and cafés with European names. Quite a few have been opened by businessmen and restaurateurs from the Continent. Even in simple places, menus are set out in French. Italian or Spanish as well as English in a

way difficult to imagine in 1972. Perhaps the biggest change of all: Britain is physically linked to the Conti-nent through the Channel Tunnel. Travelling to the Continent, or at least the nearest bits such as northern France, Paris and Brussels, has been revolutionised by

Le Shuttle and Eurostar. so its products must be, too. Subliminal-ly, such adverts are perhaps telling us some-in the other direction — it is much easier and quicker for other Europeans to get to London and the rest of Britain. In 1972.

Is life better or worse since we joined the Union?

Diane Coyle Economics Editor

Has a quarter century of EU membership been good for the UK economy? The question is impossible to answer without knowing what would have happened otherwise. Still, there are some useful indicators of the UK's progress.

Trade with other EU countries has become more important over the years. In 1973 the rest of the EEC - as it then was accounted for 42 per cent of the value of British exports. By 1995 that share had risen to 58 per cent. The importance of our European partners is even more pronounced in trade in manuactured products, where they take 64 per cent of UK exports.

Investment by European companies has grown signifi-cantly. Although the United States still dominates the league able of investors, it is followed by the Netherlands, France and Germany. The value of invest-ments in the UK by EU companies, having doubled in the first 15 years of membership, has risen from £23.6bn at the end of 1988 to £46.1hn at the end of

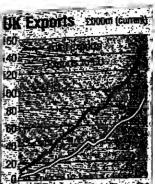
On broader economic measures, the UK's progress has been less obvious. GDP per head has grown more slowly, from a shade above the Euro-pean average in 1973, to about 8 per cent below average today. On that classic econimic in-

dicator, the strength of the cur-rency, the pound has fared very badly. Despite its recent gains, £1 will buy only 2.7 German marks today, compared with DM6 in 1973.

On the other hand, the flexbility of its labour market means that the UK, unlike the Continental economics, has created new jobs in the private UK unemployment was a little below the European average in 1973. Last year it was well be-low the climbing Euro-rate.

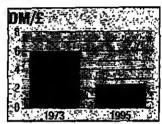
Britain first applied to join the European Union (then the European Union (the European Uni ropean Communities) as long ago as 1961. But the French, and in particular President Charles British would wreck the whole thing, vetoed the British application after a year of negotiations. Britain had earlier set up the European Free Trade As-sociation in 1960, with other non-EU members. However, it proved an inadequate substitute for membership of the real

Another British application followed in 1967; but so did another French veto. After de referendum in British history, Gaulle left power in 1969, on June 5 1975, showed 67.2 per progress was made, and in 1970











nalised. That meant that the terms and conditions under which Britain was to be a member were agreed between Londe Gaulle, concerned that the don and the six existing

Membership followed on I January 1973. With Ireland and Denmark also joining, that took membership to nine. Norway concluded accession negotiations at the same time, but then decided (after a referendum) not to join.

Britain later held a referendum after criticism from the left of the Labour Party. The first the old joke about "Fog in Channel: Conthe EC invited Britain to resume membership; only Shetland a
the best of the old joke about "Fog in Channel: Conthe EC invited Britain to resume membership; only Shetland a
the Hehrides were against. cent of voters in favour of membership; only Shetland and



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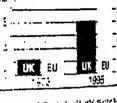
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GDP/capita

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Gay call to boycott wine from Romania

Adrian Bridge Central Europe Correspondent

The UK gay rights group OutRage! is today calling for an international boycott of Romanian wine in protest against what are currently the harshest anui-homosexual laws

The move comes just three months after OutRage! activists disrupted a Romanian National Opera performance at the Royal Albert Hall in London by unravelling a huge banner with the slogan: "Romania - stop juiling queers"

Peter Tatchell, OutRagel's most famous campaigner, said; "We are hoping that it won't just be gay people supporting this boycott but everybody who is concerned about human rights.

Romania is now the only country in Europe that still outlaws male and female homo-

Under a newly modified law, homosexual relations between consenting adults in Romania are punishable with up to five years' jail if they are conducted in public or if they are deemed to have caused a "public scandal". The law represents a relax-

ation of the harsher legislation in force under the communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu but when it was passed late last year it was immediately condemned by OutRage! and the human rights organisation Amnesty International as still being way out of line with West- and even

East-European corms.
"The term 'public scandal' ... could still be used to imprison consenting adults," Ivan Fiscber, an Amnesty spokesman, said. "Under this law anyone could go

If anyone can Canon can.

w.europe.canon.com

computing

to the police and claim to he 'scandaised' by ... the effeminate behaviour of a neighbour."

The new law also makes it an offence for homosexuals to form their own associations or engage in acts of "propaganda" or "proselytisine" - effectively hanning their clubs, hars, newspapers or any other form of support.

According to Mr Tatchell, the law is in flagrant breach of Romania's promise to decriminalise homosexuality following its accession to the Council of Europe in 1993 and is a serious obstacle to its amhition to join the European Union.

Hopes for a genuine liberalisation of the law were raised in November when Emil Constantinescu was elected as president. He once promised to repeal the current legislation; in office, however, he has not chosen to push the issue, Indeed, rather than liberal-

ising the law, there are many in the country who would like to sce a return to the Ceausescuera legislation. Romania's powcrful Orthodox church has organised mass petitions calling for the return of the blanket ban on homosexual practices, which it condemns as "the tyranny of selfish, barren passion". Many of Mr Constantinescu's

political allies in the governing Peasant Party also take a hard line. In last year's debates on the law, the Peasant Party MP Emil Popescu said that "incest is preferable to homosexuality, because it "gives breeding a chance". Horia Pascu, a party colleague, claimed that homosexuality was unknown in the



مكذا من الاعل

Flames of fury: A firefighter in the Dandenong mountains near Melbourne, Australia, where thousands of people ere trying to contain bush fires. At least one person has been killed, 44 houses destroyed and hundreds of people forced to leave their homes

Italian farmers go sour on Europe

Andrew Gumbel Rome

After living a fairy-tale life of subsidies and cosy government protection for the past 15 years, Italy's dairy farmers have auddenly come face-to-face with the reality of European integration - and they don't like it one bit.

Since 1982 they have been ignoring milk-production quotas imposed by Brussels and getting Rome to pick up the tab for fines they incur. But with monetary union just around the corner and Italy desperate to clean up its act so it can join the single currency on time. the tables have turned against them.

A few days ago the country's 105,000 animal world, except among ducks, "which are known to be the most stupid among birds". | farmers were told they would bave to pay their own fines for 1996 - some 370bn the most stupid among birds". | lire (£150m) - and would be expected

* printing

The result has been a revolt, with tractors out on the roads and farmers threatening a French-style blockade of Italy's main cities. In Milan, the tractors have cut off access to Linate airport, foreing passengers to drag their luggage several hundred metres on foot.

Much of the anger has focused on the same government that bailed the farmers out for years. Umberto Bossi's Northern League has muscled in on the act, portraying the stand-off as a conflict between honest farmers and heartless bureaucrats, as has the far-right opposition National Alliance.

The saga stretches back to 1982. when Rome first fell out with the European Commission on milk production. The Commission, seeking to curb overproduction, set one quota and Rome,

copying

al sector, unilaterally set another - thus sparking a "milk war" that lasted more than 10 years.
Periodically there were attempts to re-

solve the crisis, but the result was always an excess of Italian milk production and a flurry of fines that the government invariably chose to pay itself. It was an unrealistic situation, but one that the farmers became comfortable with. As the commentator Giorgio Bocca

wrote this week: "Farmers got the idea that the European Community was itself one enormous cow for the milking." Since the protests began last week, the centre-left government led by Romano Prodi bas been pulled in both directions

at once. It is desperate to clear one of the worst blots in its European copybook and re-

to stick to European production limits. worried about its dwindling agricultur- lieve the public finances of a burden it can no longer afford. But the last thing it wants at a time of Maastricht-imposed austerity is a widespread outpouring of anti-European bile.

Its answer has thus been to plead in Brussels on the farmers' behalf. Yesterday the Agriculture Minister, Michele Pinto, asked his European partners for a more generous quota, pointing out that under the present regime Italy would have to import more than 40 per cent of its milk. Today Mr Prodi will meet the farmers to explain the sudden reverse in their fortunes. The farmers themselves, though, are in no mood to be fobbed off with lessons in the hard eco-nomic truth. Yesterday the tractors were still out at Linate and more protests have been threatened if they do not quickly get their way.

French railways take new track

Mary Dejevsky

After months of hesitation, the French government has finally plucked up the courage to start overhauling the country's technically pioncering, but heavily loss-making, state railway com-pany, SNCF. The project, how-ever, is far less ambitious than was envisaged 18 months ago and leaves SNCF with its public status and monopoly unquestioned, at least for the

time being. Under a bill presented to parliament vesterday, the company is 10 be split into two: Reseau Ferré National (RFN), a stateowned version of the British Railtrack, will own and take responsibility for the track and infrastructure, and a revamped SNCF will be responsible for running and managing the

RFN will take over the bulk of SNCF's debt to the tune of 134 hillion francs, and receive a government subsidy of F8hn in the first year to offset interest payments. SNCF will have to pay RFN for the use of the track, while RFN will have to pay SNCF for managing it.

Six "volunteer" regions are to take over the running of local railway services on an experi-mental - and "fully reversible"

The railways hill, in approximately its present form, was to have been presented in October, but was delayed without explanation amid reports that officials udged the industrial climate too volatile. In autumn 1995, train drivers brought the national rail network to a balt and spearheaded six weeks of public sector protest that immobilised the country and threatened to topple the government.

That the government has now presented the bill - albeit starting with the upper house (the Senate), which is a "safer" bet for its first reading than the National Assembly - is a sign of its confidence that the sting of trade union protest might now have been drawn.

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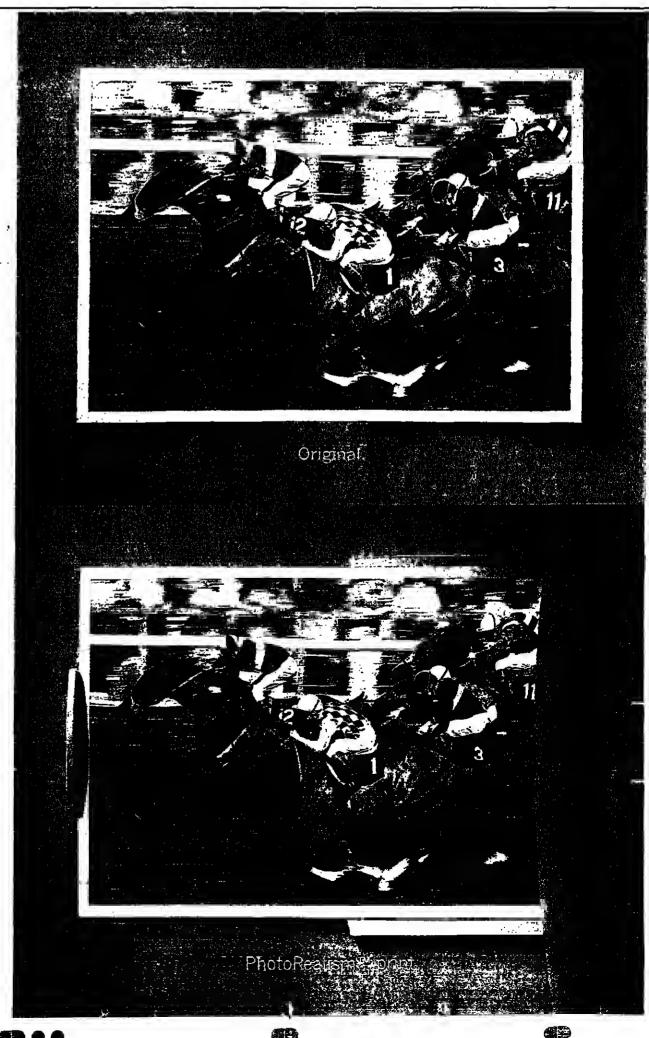
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Lines of argument: A traffic policeman separating nuns and riot police in Seoul yesterday during a rally against the new labour laws. The nuns were joined by hundreds of priests and Buddhist monks. Below, President Kim greeting the opposition party leader Kim Daa Jung before their talks on ending the strikes

Photographs: Reuters/AP

Koreans strike blow for workers' rights

Richard Lloyd Parry

In a sudden and uncharacteristic submission to popular pressure, the South Korean President, Kim Young Sam, agreed yesterday to reconsider controversial labour laws which have provoked a month of nationwide strikes.

During a meeting at the presidential Bluc House, Mr Kim told opposition leaders that the National Assembly would be allowed to rewrite the laws, which postpone the right of workers to form free trade unions, and make it easier for companies to lay them off.

Also subject to revision will he amendments to the national security law giving new pow-ers to the Korean intelligence

The President promised that trade union leaders, who are wanted by police for organising the strikes, will not be seized

from their sanctuary in Seoul's Roman Catholic cathedral. Kim Dae Jung, head of the chief opposition party, the National Council for New Politics,

said: "Today's meeting was not a total solution but there was some advance. President Kim Young Sam showed an attitude of wanting to solve the problems together with opposition The announcement repre-

sents an unexpected U-turn for the government, which appeared to have been gaining the upper hand in the month-long

After a patchy response to a general strike call last week, the leaders of the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions (KCTU) announced last Saturday that they would limit their action to one day a week, with an all-out strike planned for next month if the government fails to give in to their



But in the face of dismal popularity ratings, intensifying international pressure and mounting damage to industry. Mr Kim appears to have decided to cut his losses

The President's about-turn

ing in Paris today of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), a grouping of rich na-tions which South Korea joined last December. The OECD re-

the right of workers to form trade unions, and yesterday's announcement will take the edge off growing criticism among other member govern-

But the battle is by no means over; both the KCTU and the officially sanctioned Federa-tion of Korean Trade Unions (FKTU) were dismissive of yesterday's announcement and promised to keep pressure up until the labour law is completely withdrawn.

"We are very disappointed," the KCTU secretary-general Kwon Young Kil said. "The talks today have not solved any far from what the Korean people demanded."

A spokesman for the smaller opposition party, the United Liberal Democrats, predicted "a complete hreakdown" in discussions on the dispute. "The President showed that there is

quires entrants to recognise a huge gulf between us in the way he interprets the current situation, and he was not sincere at all," Ahn Taek Soo said.

The strikes are already estimated to have cost more than \$3bn (£1.8bn) in lost production, and resolving them will not be-come any easier for the government over the next few weeks. When the university term

begins again next month, there are likely to be new protests from Korea's highly active student population against the new national security law, which was drafted in response to leftwing protests on campuses last summer.

Next March, union discontent annual round of spring wage negotiations. President Kim's single five-year term expires at the end of this year, and the competition is already gathering among members of his party to succeed him after elections next December.

Critics lash out at 'fascist' HK laws

Stephen Vines Hong Kong

China is facing an unprece-dented barrage of criticism over plans to repeal human rights laws in Hong Kong following the transfer of sovereignty on

Chinese officials were taken aback by the storm of protest which erupted this week because much of it came from supporters who rarely publicise their misgivings about Chinese policy.

Moreover, the government m Peking and its advisers believed they had already laid the ground for plans to neuter the Bill of Rights and reintroduce some antiquated colonial legislation which imposes curbs on the freedom of assembly and the right to form associations.

For the first time in many years nearly all newspapers in the colony, most of which have become increasingly supine in their coverage of Chinese policy, have come out strongly against the planned changes. The Chinese language Express News, for ex-ample, warned China against reimposing fascist laws.
In another commentary, the

pro-Peking Sing Pao newspaper said that the law reform proposals, which come from a Chinese advisory committee with Hong Kong members, posed a test of leadership for Tung Chee-hwa, who will bead the first post-colonial government. It stated that the changes were against the will of the people of Hong Kong and that Mr Tung should therefore pay attention to these views - rather than those of advisers who wanted to turn back the clock on human

rights legislation. The law reform proposals are part of a wider exercise designed to identify and abolish laws with a colonial tinge and remove legislation seen as contradicting the Basic Law, the mini-constitution for the new Hong Kong.

The exercise has been so thoroughgoing that China is even proposing to scrap legis-lation which brought Hong Kong onto the Gregorian calendar system, as opposed to the Julian system which ceased

to be used in Britain in 1752.
The Gregorian calendar was adopted because it was more accurate than the Julian calendar. This piece of legal amendment seems to be more a product of over zealous action to purge laws regarded as colonial, rather than a politically mo-

tivated move. Although the proposed changes in the law have not been endorsed by any decisionmaking body they have already been endorsed by senior Chinese officials. Chen Zuo'er, one of China's negotiators with Britain over Hong Kong transi-tional matters, said that the changes would put "history

back on the right track". A Chinese foreign ministry spokesman said yesterday that as the Hong Kong government had made unilateral changes to laws which would be in force following the handover of power, it was necessary to hring these laws hack into line. Ultimately the new laws will have to be presented to a new legislature which has been virtually hand-picked hy China. Nevertheless some of its memhers have expressed un-

ease about the changes. Liu Yiu-chu a lawyer, and a memher of China's National People's Congress, questioned why it was proposed to hring back oppressive public order laws which had been abolished by the Legislative Council. She said that these proposals would damage Hong Kong's image

The Governor Chris Patten, described the changes as striking "at the heart of Hong Kong liberties". Britain will be making a formal protest .

Although the recommenda tions cover the scrapping of 16 laws and the amendment of 9 others, some recent changes to Hong Kong law have remained unscathed. Pro-Peking supporters in the rural areas are fuwomen land-inheritance rights has not been abolished.

The Legislative Council which, along with all organs of elected government, will he scrapped under the proposals, will meet on Friday to consider

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Yeltsin illness 'a threat to Russia', warns aide

Phil Reeves Moscow

Anatoly Chubais, Boris Yeltsin's chief-of-staff, has admitted in a rare interview that the President's illness is threatening the stability of Russia.

Mr Chubais, Russia's most powerful official, made little attempt to play down Mr Yeltsin's condition during a tengthy in-terview in the *Trud* (Lahour) newspaper, published yesterday. The aide, whom many believe

is running the government, did not suggest Mr Yeltsin should stand down. But he confirmed that a facsimile presidential signature is being used for many documents, although not for presidential decrees.

"It does make things more said the political establishment was looking for a successor. "Both the opposition and complicated, both in terms of day-to-day work and in terms of undermining stability in the country as a whole," he said.

Mr Chubais stressed that no key government decisions had been postponed, and that, unlike last year, there has been no damaging infighting at the top. Mr Chubais, considered a pro-Western reformer, attacked the West for seeking to throw a "cordon sanitaire around Russia, from Azerbaijan to the Baltics" through Nato expansion.

His comments will add to the growing sentiment in Russia that the time may be approaching when Mr Yeltsin will be forced to retire. Yesterday, the respected Nczavisimaya Gazeta

Yeltsin's supporters have clearly demonstrated their alienation from the President", said the newspaper, noting that when Mr Yeltsin was in hospi-tal, a clutch of his ministers and officials, including the Prime Minister, Viktor Chemomyrdin, went on leave. Doubts about Mr Yeltsin's comeback after months of illness deepened two weeks ago when he was admit-

ted to hospital with pneumonia.
The President returned to his residence outside Moscow on Monday, hut his aides have fought shy of predicting when would return to full-time work in the Kremlin.

Gingrich fined \$300,000 for 'political jay walking'

The US House of Representatives yesterday moved to wrap up a wrenching two-year investigation of Newt Gingrich hy imposing punishment - un-precedented for a Speaker - of an official reprimand and a \$300,000 (£180,000) fine for vi-olating its ethics rules and then misleading the Congressional

committee investigating his case.
Thus has been struck, after a perfunctory debate which Mr Gingrich did not attend, a weary peace hetween Democrats demanding that the Speaker step down, and his Republican colleagues who maintained his offences were trivial: "political

the publication of a report by the House Ethics Committee, which found that Mr Gingrich "over a number of years and in a number of situations" had hreached the normal boundaries of congressional conduct most recently by using taxexempt funds for financing a highly partisan college course,

and then providing the com-mittee with wrong information. Just hefore Christmas, a chastened Mr Gingrich admit-

ted wrongdoing.

In essence, he struck a deal with the Committee by accepting a reprimand, a sanction that allows him to become the

one key supporter.
Yesterday's vote came after

serve a second consecutive two-year term in the Speaker's

But controversy, and uncertainty over his future, could easily resurface if the Speaker takes the advice of some of his followers, and tries to pay the fine with unused campaign funds instead of from his own pocket.

Alternatively, the tax authorities may choose to press

tharges for wrongful use of tax-exempt funds.

With many Republicans already highly uneasy about having voted to re-elect him on 7 January, either development could prove fatal for Mr

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Canadian officials are concerned that a United States victory at the World Trade Organisation in a dispute involving split-run editions of magazines in their country will prompi a hroad-hased assault on measures intended to protect cultural industries from

domination by their neighbour. The preliminary decision issued last week on an American complaint about measures Canada has taken to block an edition of Sports Illustrated marks the first time the WTO has dealt with the issue of cultural protectionism.

Although the decision, which seemed to turn on the specifics of whether a magazine was considered goods or a service, can be appealed against, the Canadian government is now concerned that the US may try to use the WTO mechanism to get around the cultural exemption it had successfully inserted into the North America Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations.

That exemption, which allows measures to protect Canadian film distributors, magazine publishers and radio and television programming, has rankled with US officials and the entertainment industry led by Jack Valenti, president of the Motion Picture Association of America. There have been several at-

tempts to reopen the clause. Under the FTA, if Canada invokes the cultural exemption to the detriment of a particular company or industry, the US is sures "of equivalent commercial

effect". The conflict reveals a fundamental difference in approach between the two countries. The US considers its film and other cultural industries as entertainment businesses that should be accurded the same "national treatment" as any other manufacturer. The Canadian position is that its film, hroadcasting and publishing are crucial components of national identity and without some protection from its neighbour's huge spillover, will be squeezed out of husiness.

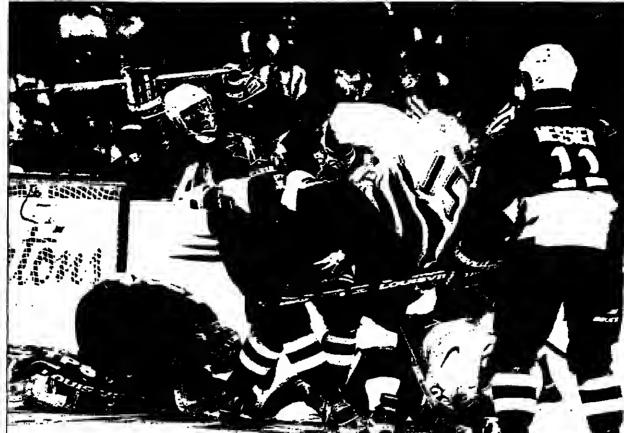
One of the US's objections to the cultural exemption was that it might serve as a precedent for other countries, and as it turned out, this was a prescient concern. In the final negotiations for Gatt, the trade and tariffs agreement, which led to the creation of the WTO, France successfully cited the Canada- US exemption to keep its own cultural industries out of the treaty. Mr Valenti was prompted to

complain that "this negotiation has nothing to do with culture unless European soap operas and game shows are the equivalent of Molière. This is all about the hard husiness of moncy".

The origin of the current dis-

pute was a decision by Sports IIhistrated, produced by the Time/Life communications conglomerate, to print a split run in Canada, with most of the cditorial material the same as in the US domestic issue plus a few ex-

But the original advertisements were replaced with those sold in the second country. Canadian publishers say this



Fighting talk: Fists fly in last year's World Cup ice hockey final between Canada and the US Photograph: Alisport

gives an unfair subsidy since the editorial costs are spread over the much larger US edition.

The Canadian government retaliated by introducing an 80 per cent tax on the revenue of

similar venture. The split run was denied postal subsidies and advertisers were not allowed to deduct their costs from income tax.

The US edition of Sports Il-Sports Illustrated and any other lustrated and hundreds of othmagazine which attempted a er titles circulate freely in

Canada but they are not seen as a threat to domestic magazines' advertising revenue. Magazines are only a small

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part of the cultural industry, however, and an even larger concern is what might happen to films.

some of the distribution revenues are reinvested in making Cana-

their own proprietary films in Canada but all other foreignmade films must be imported through a Canadian-owned distributor. The assumption is that

extortion sting Less than a week after his only son was shot dead in an

Czechs sign

Sudetenland

declaration

Germany and the Czech

bury decades of mutual

declaration aimed at

Republic yesterday sought to

antagonism by signing a joint

drawing a final line under

the vexed issue of the Sudetenland. Under the

terms of the declaration.

which took more than two

years to agree, Germany

inflicted on the Czechs

Czechs for their part

expressed regret over

Adrian Bridge

apologised for the suffering

during the Nazi occupation between 1938 and 1945. The

"injustices" that took place

than 2.5 million Sudeten

Germans after the Second

Central Europe Correspondent

Cosby sets up

during the expulsion of more

apparent robbery attempt, the television comedian Bill Cosby was the target of an extortion scheme by a woman claiming 10 be his llegitimate daughter. Autumn Jackson, 22, had demanded \$40m to keep her from going to a newspaper with her story. She was arrested in the office of Mr Cosby's New York lawyer after signing an agreement to "end everything" for \$23m. She first approached him in early January hut stepped up demands after

his son's murder. Tim Cornwell - Los Angeles

hold back Marxist rebels bolding 73 hostages at the Japanese ambassador's residence in Peru will not hurt any of their captives, the Tupac Amaru spokesman Isaac Velasco told a news conference in Stockholm yesterday, "Under no circumstances will we act aggressively against [the hostages], whether verbally or physically," he said.

Reuter – Stockholm

Peru rebels to

Germany to tighten BSE restrictions

The death of the first German-born cow from BSE prompted calls yesterday for yet tighter restrictions on British imports. The animal, born in 1992 to a cow from Britain, could have been infected through the mother or through British feed, said the Agriculture Ministry. The four previous German cases of BSE involved animals born in Britain, Imre Karacs - Bonn

Simpson trial close to end

The beginning of the end in the OJ Simpson case came in sight vesterday as attorneys in the civil suit against him began closing arguments. Photographs showing Mr Simpson wearing the famous Bruno Magli shoes – and cosy home videos of his alleged victims - were expected to take centre stage. Jurors in the wrongful death law-suit brought by the families of his ex-wife Nicole and Ronald Goldman were due 10 begin deliberations Iomorrow or Friday. They must first settle the question of Mr Simpson's liability, and may award limited compensatory damages to cover financial loss. But a decision on punitive damages would await a hearing on Mr Simpson's finances. Tim Cormell - Los Angeles

Sad end for a vodka maker

The head of Moscow's

Kristall vodka factory died on Monday of cirrhosis of the liver, a source at the plant said. Vladimir Yamnikov bad run the drinks combine since Soviet days, producing brands including Stolichnaya vodka. At 56, he was two years short of the Russian man's average life expectancy much shorter than the European norm due, at least in part, to an average male consumption of about a quarter litre of vodka a day. Reuter – Moscow

Halting steps to a Middle Eastern Korea

Dr Nabil Sukkar, they say, has the ear of the President, Dr Sukkar, virtual creator of Syria's economic reform pro-gramme, humbly denies the claim, insisting he has never met President Hafez al-Assad. But there is no doubt where he stands on the future of his country, and the need to avoid a post-war Middle East economy dominated by Israel. "We should not be part of this American-Israeli plan - we should have our own plan for the re-gion," he says. "We should have our own economic grouping -Syria, Lebanon and Iraq after Saddam goes, and an alliance with the Gulf because we need

Around Dr Sukkar's fifth floor suite of offices in al-Far-Damascus, computers hum. Files and photocopies are produced in seconds for the former World Bank economist whose report on Syrian economic reform in the late 1980s, funded by the Lebanese Prime Minister, Rafiq Hariri, touched off the transition from centrally planned Socialism to a mixed

Thinking of

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Robert Fisk, in Damascus. continues his series on Syria, meeting the banker in charge of economic reform

economy. The bureaucracy of the old East European-style ministries - "the need for a hundred signatures on a piece of paper," as Dr Sukkar puts it - has been banished from his consultancy bureau. "Syria has to reform the

economy, whether or not we're at war with Israel," Dr Sukkar says. "In the mind of the leadership. I think that the peace process and economic reform were linked. And there was a fear that too quick a reform dos Street in the centre of might be seen by outsiders as a weakness because people might be arguing about reform and subsequent unemployment. The leadership did not want this while it was negotiating with the Americans. At the same time, he [President Assad] wanted a very strong domestic front while he was negotiating with the

And there was a realisation that, once there is a peace, we are going to open up. Last April, when it seemed we were about to have a deal with the Israelis. there was a feeling we would have to have a competing econ-

In an article three years ago, Dr Sukkar summed up the problems Syria faced in the late 1980s, when a reform of the nationalised economy, forced on the authorities by a foreign exchange crisis, was made irreversible by the subsequent collapse of East European communism. The problem for Dr Sukkar is that the last congress of the ruling Baath party - an institution steeped in all the iron-clad Socialism of fratemal delegations and petty bourgeois-peasant unity - was held in 1985, when it favoured an even larger public sector econ-Americans and the Israelis.

omy. He winces slightly at the memory. "The congress should be held every five years but it hasn't been held since 1985," he says. "So there is no new official thinking within the party to tackle the future economy. This is what is missing. We need another party congress, because thinking in the party is already moving towards accepting a market system. We are ready for a more objective debate."

He wants a thorough banking reform, a unification of exchange rates, a separation of the Syrian Central Bank from the ministry of economy - steps which will not harm the regime. But Dr Sukkar understands the danger of going too far. "I wanted to maintain the Socialist umbrella because I wanted a revolution of the existing economic system rather than a different system. If I had said 10 years ago that I wanted to turn Syria into a Korea, it would have heen rejected immediately."

In 1991, Syria encouraged private sector investment from abroad. Private joint stock companies were formed. There were tax exemptions for exporters. One strength of Syrian economic reform, according to Dr Sukkar, is that it was not imposed by the World Bank or the IMF in return for political concessions. But the reform of the public sector has not been fol-

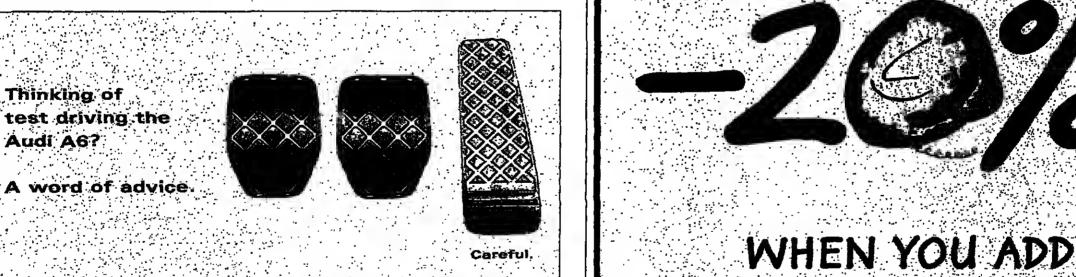
lowed through.
"The problem is we don't know what's the next step; we don't have a total framework. Nothing has been announced, there is no agreement within the system. We don't know what is the new thinking of the Baath party. There is no reconciliation between the ideology and the new changes taking place in

says, "has followed a step-bystep approach, creating new thinking through the media. He tries to create consensus and thus he creates facts on the ground."

Economic reform, Dr Sukkat feels, would be easier if the country did not feel threatened. "The United States bas been using Israel as a tool to maintain peace in the region, creating alliances like that between Israel and Turkey. If these threats are removed, we'll make a more peaceful transition from central planning to market economy.

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the leader page

Clinton's mood music spreads harmony

he American presidency is best for ourselves, as the president put it. understood, according to Theodore Roosevelt, as a "bully pulpit". Roosevelt could be a plain, straightforward hully – he ordered the bombardment of Havana, for instance. But by hully pulpit, he meant that the American president leads most effectively by reflecting back to the American people their hetter selves. That was also, in essence, the project of another Roosevelt, Franklin, who projected an America which could advance only by putting its faith in government. Then the tide turned and another kind of preaching became popular in the White House, as Reagan and Bush, rhetorical advocates of stern self-reliance, tried to repeal FDR's New Deal-based

And how, after his second inaugural speech from the steps of the Capitol this week, does Bill Clinton fit in - a man whose better self has from time to time been hard to make out in the mud-flinging of Nineties Washington? He did something remarkable. He declared that conflict between statists and antistatists, the 20th-century battle of the hully pulpits, to be over. We have, he said, resolved a great dehate over the role of government. Clinton used his great platform to express a moderate sense of the limits on government action and of government's continuing vitality - government strong enough to give us the tools to solve our problems

Inaugural speeches are not summaries of policy. This was not even a statement of legislative intent. It was mood music. Yet, addressed to Americans as it was, President Clinton's

speech also matters to us, on this side

of the Atlantic The trivial reason is that one way or another our culture and horizons are formed by the domestic condition of the United States. There is another reason, germane this week as the contents of Gordon Brown's extraordinary fiscal promises are digested. Bill Clinton is an inescupable point of reference in the map of possible futures for the centre left or progressive politics in this country. What he has done, and may yet do, are possible compass-points for our Labour and Liheral Democrat

Let's put on one side Whitewater, Paula Jones and the sleaze which clings to this president like drying slime 10 an Everglades 'gator, What Governor Bill Clinton may or may not have done in hotel rooms in the state capital of Arkansas is irrelevant to his conduct as President, or at least no more relevant than if one tried to judge Harry Truman's actions during the Korean war in the light of his conduct as a Missouri judge. The American people voted Clinton back, unseen "distinguishing characteristics" and all.

That does not mean the slate is clean.



ONE CANADA SQUARE CANARY WHARF LONDON E145DL TELEPHONE 0171-293 2000 / 0171-345 2000 FAX 0171-293 2435 / 0171-345 2435

Clinton's domestic accomplishments during his first term are not negligible, though they owe a great deal to fortuitous economic circumstances and gencrally good judgements by the chair-man of the Federal Reserve. But the omissions are equally great; conspicuous failure to deal with the costs of ageing; the abandonment of health reform; the incarceration of a growing pro-portion of the youth, and specifically young blacks, without commensurate effect on crime.

For all that, the President's secondterm inaugural is a speech worth hearing with open cars. To British listeners.

a phrase such as "the great natural bounty of our water, air and majestic land" is bombast. What they ought to hear is the recapitulation by William Jefferson Clinton of the second president's sense of a new continental power, unbounded in time and unconstrained by geography, destined for greatness.

This style of speech-making is alien to us in our cramped island, especially the way a US president can reach out to all his fellow countrypeople on the basis of common aspiration - for ultimately, perhaps, the only thing that Americans have in common is an idea of onwards and upwards towards Jef- which is harder-edged than mere talk fersonian goals of happiness.

Yet isn't that basic political optimism what will always distinguish the political centre and left from the right - a conviction that government has a role to play in securing for individuals and for groups the means for advancement? The political trick, in this post-New Deal era, is to create a kind of government action that does not involve more spending or more officials or even more law-making.

In a world where the pressures are for slightly smaller states, that is essential. But it is practical too? Three themes fairness, inclusiveness and renewal - sang through Clinton's speech. These are aspirations; but they are richly suggestive. What Clinton is saying is that government has a role - in the lives of both individuals and their civil society - as a source and guarantor of fairness and inclusiveness. The job of the party of the centre left is to win power in order to make the conditions of life fairer. To be an American, in the Clinton perspective, is to resent and, by implication, seek to demolish those structures that exclude people. The party of the centre left is thus the party of equal access, women's advancement, intolerant of racial discrimination, striving to enact policies (welfare to work, child benefit, education, etc) that emancipate the underclass.

This is a new politics of values,

or blather. It is a new bully pulpit, with a social mission attached. And it is inspiring - at least to us. It is a reminder to all those who have assumed that Gordon Brown is in some way the gravedigger of progressive British polities that there are other ways of being 'progressive" than simply tax-raising or hig-spending. For the centre left gencrally, as for the scandal-hit hut re-elected William Jefferson Clinton, there is political life after death.

Ban sprouts, and kids will eat them

t sounds like a master-stroke. Unable Lto persuade the nation's grumpy youth to swallow frozen vegetables, one store has come up with a new gimmick. Watch out for cheese-and-onion-flavoured cauliflower and prawn-cocktail-flavoured carrots. But hang on a minute. Can picky infant eating habits really be solved simply by dressing gruesome greens up as crisps? If it were as easy as that, weary parents would have cottoned on decades ago by drenching vegetables in one of the most popular crisp flavours of all - good old salt and vinegar. We have a horrible feeling that the only way to persuade young people to turn to vegetables is to han them.

• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

UN closure of camp betrays refugee rights

Sir: In defiance of the growing chorus of international criticism by human rights and aid organisations, the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) plans to shut down the Atrush refugee camp in south Kurdistan (northern Iraq). Atrush is no ordinary camp. It is

the only sanctuary for approximately 15,000 Kurds from north Kurdistan (south-east Turkey) who fled the destruction of their villages and torture and brutal persecution carried out by Turkish soldiers and gendarmes. The closure of this camp, which

has an internationally recognised status, by the High Commissioner for Refugees is tantamount to denying these refugees the minimum internationally recognised humanitarian standards of treatment. It also betrays a callous contempt for human rights. This policy is in stark and

revealing contrast to that pursued by the United States and the United Nations last year, when 7,500 Kurds and their families who worked with the operation Provide Comfort were hastily evacuated via Guam to the US, to protect them from possible reprisals by Saddam

Hussein's regime.
But for the Kurds from Turkey, new standards and different criteria apply. 15,000 Kurdish refugees are now quietly and expeditiously sacrificed to suit Turkey's barbaric aims, with the apparent approval of the UNHCR following Ankara's intervention in Washington. We appeal to the UNHCR to immediately stop its plan to close the camp. Lord AVEBURY Chairman, Parliamentary Human Rights Group Lord REA Lord McNAIR Baroness GOULD Lord HYLTON JOHN AUSTIN-WALKER MP (Woolwich, Lab)
TONY BANKS MP (Newham North West, Lab) TONY BENN MP (Chesterfield, Lab) JEREMY CORBYN MP (Islington North, Lab) CYNOG DAFIS MP (Ceredigion and Pembroke North, PC)
MARGARET EWING MP

(Moray, SNP)
ALAN SIMPSON MP tax hurden was left unchanged, from indirect to direct taxation. (Nottingham South, Lab) DAVID ATKINSON MP (Bournemouth East, C) JENNY JONES Green Party LESLEY KIPLING Socialist Labour Party KEN CAMERON General Secretary, FBU FMM STEINER Deddington, Oxfordshire TIM GOPSILL HAROLD PINTER TOM STOPPARD Vice-President, International PEN MARGARET DRABBLE Vice-President, International PEN EDWARD MORTIMER LOUISE CHRISTIAN SHERI LAIZER

GEORGE EUGENIOU Cypriot Advisory Service LIB PECK National Peace Council MICHAEL FEENEY Rejugee Adviser for Cardinal Hume JOHN JOSSET Policy Officer for Refugees, Catholic Bishops Conference England and Peace in Kurdistan campaign

MIRANDA WATSON

London NW3

SURVEILLANCE KIT Read his lips: itself: why shouldn't I trust the fellows whose stance, being well to no fair taxes the left of new Labour, is now government. closer to my own? Blairites assun Sir: As a higher-rate taxpayer, and by no means a left-winger, I am the left need not be placated because it has nowhere to go. I am a lifelong Labour voter and the appalled at Gordon Brown's

THE LITTLE

BUGGER

commitment unt to increase

standard and higher rates of

income tax ("No new taxes? Read

his lips", 21 January).
One of my hopes for a change of

Jack Straw to do the right thing", 20

January) tells us we need not fear

hecause he doesn't mean a word of

them. "Trust him - he's a liar." It's a

novel idea. An alternative suggests

Jack Straw's illiberal statements

government, any change, had been for a reversal of the socially divisive and regressive tax system of recent years. In particular I had looked Ashdown keeps forward to a shift, even if the total his distance

SHEENAGH PUGH

likes of Straw, Harman and, above

impending choice is between voting

Liberal Democrat and abstaining.

all, Blair have ensured that my

Sir: Your leading article (20 January) was "intrigued" that no one has denied that Paddy Ashdown and Tony Blair have had discussions By not taking account of anyone's ability to pay, VAT hits the poor more than the better-off. And corporation tax is very low by international standards. Unless about Cabinet seats. Yoo should spending is to be cut by unacceptable have asked, I can state categorically that Paddy Ashdown has never amounts, direct taxes must be discussed Cabinet seats with Tony increased and VAT reduced. Blair or anyone else. Your editorial also suggested that Paddy Ashdown and Menzies Campbell would have to join the Labour Party if they were Sir: The term "windfall tax on the to accept any Cabinet positions. This suggestion is as hizarre as it is

education and health, only the

utility companies," to describe a supposedly painless way of raising revenue by a Labour government, is a misnomer. Its name should be .The Liberal Democrats are an independent party, with clear, the Utility Customer Tax because distinctive policies, and we will be the companies, to maintain their fighting every seat in the country to investment programmes and dividends, will eventually pass on win. What is more, it is now crystal "windfall tax" hills to customers. clear that whether you want GRAHAM ARMITAGE comprehensive modernisation of our political system, principled Pity Me, Durham protection of your civil liberties, or Sir: Polly Toynhee ("Why I trust significant new investment in

Liberal Democrats will now make the difference after 18 years of Tory NICK SOUTH Head of Press and Policy Paddy Ashdown's Office House of Commons

We don't need a Halifax Bank

London SW1

Sir: In common with many households, we received some hefty literature giving details about the proposed conversion of the Halifax Building Society into a bank. I say "we" although it was solely addressed to my husband, even though we have always had joint accounts. The Halifax presumably does not consider women fiscally competent.

I did attempt to read this document, which seems more concerned about share allocation than the arguments for conversion. searched in vain for a section. putting a contrary view. There was none, yet there are compelling arguments against conversion. To keep share-holders sweet the cost of borrowing will go up and the rates of return on savings will go down.

Building societies were established to enable people to buy their own homes - not for people to make a financial killing. There is not exactly a shortage of banks in most high streets (although rural areas might appreciate the odd one). GILLIAN BERG Luton, Bedfordshire

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number.

Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk).

E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

BBC tuned in to local radio

Sir. Polly Toynbee ("Local radio? Why not news from your own street", 15 January) is quite right about there being space on the dial for intelligent, locally based speech radio. We think so too. That is why the BBC's local radio stations have increasingly developed a unique role across the country – providing the community with local news, information and debate, and performing an important role as a

platform for local democracy. When major stories break in London, listeners know they will find in-depth coverage on BBC GLR. This "low-rating" service attracts more than 400,000 regular listeners.

Ms Toynbee is right, too, about the difficulties that regional television news services have in being genuinely local - a universal problem, not one unique to London. That's why, recognising the audience's appetite for greater localness, the BBC has committed itself to expand its broadcasting presence into more communities across the land, introducing new digital technology, broadcasting live reports from new fast-response vehicles, and strengthening the

local content of our programmes. Yet although it encompasses a large part of the South-east, BBC Newsroom South East is enormously popular within the Greater London area, currently enjoying a record 43 per cent share -more than 1.5 million nightly

fanuary) have both got it wrong. Glockenspiel is a German word and years ago, at a party in Austria, when I said I didn't know much German, I was asked to try to say

something in that language.
Inventing rapidly, I said: "Meine Grossmutter hat ein grosses Glockenspiel" ... whereupon the assembled company fell about laughing. It was explained to me that in some areas of Austria, "Glockenspiel" is dialect for "bum". LEN CLARKE Unbridge, Middlesex

viewers - its highest for more than

Controller, English Regions, BBC

Dentist still NHS

earns £604,000" (15 January)
quotes Gordon Prentice MP: "The
town where I live [Barnoldswick]
doesn have a single NHS dentist."

Mr Prentice seems to have forgotten that NHS dentistry is still

available at this surgery here in

Barnoldswick. We have more than 5,000 active NHS-registered

patients and despite the antics of

politicians - reduced registration

period from two years to 15 months

and reduction in items of treatment

available - we will continue to

strive to provide a quality NHS

Sir: Jilly Cooper and Paul Barnett (report, 16 January; letter, 18

dental service. EDWARD LOWERY

PAULH HADFIELD

Bum note

Barnoldswick, Lancashire

Sir: Your report "NHS dentist

NIGEL CHAPMAN

Birmingham

Soccer terraces can now be safe

Sir: Your leading article of 21 January prompts me to put the case for safe terracing at some

soccer grounds. When Lord Justice Taylor condemned standing terrace areas and introduced all-seated stadiums he was right. As the then chairman of the All-Party Football Committee, I led a deputation to him to stress this. However, at that time, British engineers at NNC had not developed a revolutionary crowd monitoring system which electronically measures pressure

on terrace barriers during a game. In 1993 I was informed of this development, and went to see it. In February 1994, I took the Sports Minister, Iain Sproat, and he too was impressed. However, we both recognised that the time for Premier League clubs to consider this scheme had passed, and it went on to a back hurner.

Since that time the pressure to reopen the debate has come from football supporters. Many complain about the lack of atmosphere at some of our finest stadiums, the reduced capacity and high prices for tickets.
The Labour Party's proposed
Task Force for football will give

supporters a voice at the very top of the football hierarchy. Issues such as this deserve to be considered.

Terracing will only be considered once the safety question is proved. No responsible government would preside over a return to the kind of terraced accommodation that cost so many lives at Hillsborough. TOM PENDRY MP (Stalybridge and Hyde, Lab) Shadow Minister for Sport House of Commons London SWI

'Superwoman' is not that special

Sir: Nicola Horlick is dubbed "superwoman" for her ability to combine her "hectic" family life with a demanding job in the City (report, 20 January).

Mrs Horlick works from choice, not necessity, and earns enough to affird two large homes, full-time child care and sufficient domestic help to enable her, for example, to fly off to Frankfurt at a moment's

The real superwomen are those who have to work in order to make ends meet, often in jobs they do not enjoy, while at the same time struggling to bring their children up in unsuitable accommodation. Adequate child care for these

superwomen is not affordable; school holidays and childhood illnesses are major crises for them; and their family life, hectic or no, does not include high-earning investment banking husbands. ANGELA CRUM EWING Reading, Berkshire

Elfin expletive

Sir: Though I have no wish to cast doubt on CS Lewis's ability to utter colourful expletives, the one reported by Boyd Tonkin ("Enduring spell of a trilogy that leaves the critics cold", 20 January) is, in fact, attributed to Hugo Dyson, another member of the Inklings. Lewis is unlikely to have effed about elves, as The Lord of the Rings would never have been completed without his constant encouragement.
COLIN DURIEZ

th - our

Made in Streatham, made it in Paris



John Galliano (left), plumber's son, born in Gibraltar, and raised in dreary south London, is truly one of us.

He is the darling of the French, but as English as an illegal rave

by Peter Popham

ohn Galliano's triumph this week, in his first tion for Dior, is an opportunity for that most delicious of journalistic enquiries: why oh why are we so

usual characterisation, is, after compared to its competitors all, utterly one of us: 1be forelgn-sounding name and the able to put that carefully nurfact that he was horn in tured talent to use. Gihraltar, as well as the dreary south London provenance of his upbringing, actually render him more typically of this place and age than if he had English genes stretching hack to the 'Domesday Book' and was raised in Tunbridge Wells.

Nor is he English in some Julian Barnes manner, more French than the French themprospect of winning the Académie or some such apotheosis. Galliano is as English as English as a capital city shorn

His strengths sprout from the weaknesses and wildnesses of where he comes from; or, ing. Galliano's latest triumph is more accurately, from a com-

Name:(Mr/Mrs/Ms.)

hination of weaknesses and strengths that is peculiarly and induplicably English. The strength: a brilliant art school education, whether at St Martin's (Galliano's college) or Goldsmiths' or the Royal College; the weakness; a fashion John Galliano, "son of a husiness that has never Streatham plumber" in the amounted to a hill of beans abroad, that has never been

It is the weakness of a nation

which, proverbially, has lost an

empire and failed to find a role hut, in that sad process, has experienced an implosion of races and languages and cultures. And while it has never done anything dramatic like embrace these huddled masses. apologetic, trans-Chanoel, let alone provide them with the wherewithal of a decent education, it has, passively, tolerselves and palpitating at the ated them. It has manifested that strength. It has allowed Goncourt or translation to the them to take their surly and henighted place alongside our own benighted native prole-Camden High Street, as tariat, allowed them to form a English as an illegal rave, as sort of multicultural mulch out of which a wonderful exotic of its own government these 13 hloom such as Galliano can sprout.

So let's he frank: as an opportunity for national preenway up there with Brenda

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Honourable the Lords Commissioners

of the Admiralty.

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Galliano's designs are the biggest thing to hit the world of French couture since Dior's New Look (above left) in 1947

Blethyn at the Golden Globes and London on the cover of Newsweek as the trendiest town in the planet, not to meotion Bruce and Demi mulling over a move to Berkshire. But more so than those stories, Galliano's gives us pause to think a little harder about the national face that stares back at us from the mirror, warts and all.

John Galliano's is a deceptive personality because his extreme visual flamboyance with his pistachio saris and bleached dreadlocks and brocade waistcoats and hiker's leathers, he often upstages his own models and collections masks genuine shyness. Likewise, his notoriously wild, partyloving lifestyle coexists with an extraordinary dedication to his craft, without which he could not have survived five minutes in the snobbish hell-hole of a

mentary about him, he compared what he does to his father's trade as a plumber, working out of sight on the hidden systems that underpin what appears oo the surface. It seems a hizarre, perhaps sentimental analogy, yet when one sees Galliano eotering the atelier flou (soft fabrics workroom) of Givenchy's headquarters in

Paris, his eyes ablaze with antic-

ipation, it rings true.

His rise to fame began in 1984 with his degree show at St Martin's; one observer remembers the "mad, hobo-ish woman clothes, a woman with clogs on with a tree coming out of her hair ..." It was the first resounding yodel of a voice that has been distinctive and unmistakable ever since, and Joan Burstein of Browns, the fashion husiness in South Molton Street, immediately took the wild, tiny, frail-looking, hirsute figure under her wing and nur-

was the most recent). But as many other designers discovered before him, London may he a hrilliant crucible for young talent, but it's also a miserably inadequate marketplace for what that talent produces. London fashion week may continue to snap hravely at the heels of Paris. Milan and New York, but the industry it repre-

tured his development. She did

so to such good effect that in

1987 he was named British

Designer of the Year, the first

of three occasions on which he

has been given the award (1996

In a South Bank Show docu- sents remains a fraction of the size of its rivals. So in 1992 like many others before and since, Galliano headed for the bright lights of Paris.

His first three years were hard going; he arrived in town practically penniless, slept on friends' floors and had to beg or horrow everything he oeeded to get started, including the services of his models (hut they all loved him, so that was okay). Critical acclaim continued to surround his work, but more than once he came close to financial disaster.

hen in autumn 1995 came the hig. unprecedented break. It was announced from the company's elegant headquarters in the Avenue George V that Hubert de . founder and chief

designer of the eponymous haute conturier, was retiring from the bouse be had founded in 1952. Givenchy was now owned by the conglomerate LVMH (standing for Louis Vuitton Moet Hennessy) and the urhane, formal, precise founder, always immaculately besuited, was being replaced by a figure as drastically different as one could imagine. Galliano, the English wild man.

The canniness of this eccentric-seeming choice became apparent one year ago, in Jan-uary 1996, when Galliano on a single outfit; the nightie-like creation the Princess of

showed his first collection for the house, to great acclaim. Although no Englishman had ever beaded an hante conturier before, this strange, anachronistic pinnacle of the fashion

fact, it transpires, a pretty good preparation. Houses like Givenchy and Dior have a worldwide clientele of no more than 1,000 inordinately wealthy women, who are willing to spend up to £20,000

wore to New York in December, for example, designed by Galliano, is said to have cost £15,000. Despite the price tags on the

clothes, so vast are the resources of skill and fahrics ma time poured into each dress that no haute conturier makes a profit from the core business: it is merely the mosi elahorate and gor-

geous way of hyping the commercial products hearing the house's name: the lipsticks and scent and hair grips and the rest, hy which it makes its

Haute coulure therefore has to answer two somewhat contradictory imperatives: for the husiness is one for which a 1,000 wealthiest women, the British fashion training is in clothes must be heautifully made, intensely alluring and (within certain rigidly prescribed contexts I wearable. For the rest of the world, meanwhile, for the merc onlookers (people like the cash-strapped Duchess of York, for example, gawping along with the rest in Paris this week), they must be

despite their irrelevance to one's own life and style, esting. They must be at the same time both an act of homage to wealth and taste,

and brif-

remark-

liant and

and a fireworks display. What the French spotted in Galliano was that he was capahle of homage as well as fireworks. His work, like most of the best new London work of the past 15 years, whether in fine art or architecture or fashion, as well as being a gut response to the present is intensely involved with the past. Its inspiration is flea markets and the Victoria and Albert Museum and dusty books as much as in the work of contemporaries. So when Galliano buried himself in the Givenchy archive - and latterly, since his promotion last October within LVMH to head Dior, in Dior's, too - it was not out of inadequacy or nerves; it was doing one of the things he loves best: immersing himself in a fantas-

tic conversation with the past. For Galliano, all times and all places coincide in the here and now: the France of the belle époque, opium era China, premodern Japan, the Africa of the Masai tribesmen, all permed and frothed together in intensely romantic confections. But underpinning it and sometimes undermining it, lending it at times a lethal edge of irony, at other times merely a whiff of reality, is the grunge and grime of the streets of Streatham, where the whole thing started.

Locked up in a Cabinet for years - it's criminal

disturbing report has been published which seems to demonstrate that no useful purpose is served by locking people up in a small space for years on end and expecting their behaviour to be improved by it.

The report is based on the study of the case of a Mr Michael Howard, who has spent the past five to 10 years inside a small Cabinet in central London. When he was put inside he was an obscure lawyer who seemed normal and harmed nobody except those with whom he came in regular contact. Now he is not only a potential danger to most people in the country, but has become a persistent court offeoder, is subject to dangerous hallucinations and has developed strange behavioural patterns.

It would be simplistic to argue that all this has been hrought on simply by being inside this Cahinet," says the report. "However, it would probably also he completely accurate."

The main delusion from which Howard seems to suffer is a belief that locking people up is fun. He does not articulate it quite like this.

What Mr Howard says is that locking people up is a way of preventing crime, and that the more people you lock up, the less crime there will be.

"We all know that locking people up actually creates more criminals," says the report. "Well, we all know this except Mr Howard. But Mr Howard has made arrangements for more and. more places to be built where more and more people can be locked up. At the same time the crime figures have not gone down. A sane person might draw the conclusion that the policy is mistaken. However, Mr Howard's thought processes seem not to be what we normally think of as sane. One reason for thinking this is that he seems compulsively driven to lock up people who could not possibly be improved by being

locked up." By this the report seems to mean people who have failed to pay fines, many of whom have been locked up by Mr Howard. The reason that people cannot pay fines is that they have not got the money. The reason they bave not got the money is that they are poor. Many of the poorest



Miles Kington

people in society are young single mothers. Therefore Mr Howard takes a lot of young mothers away from their children and locks them up to teach them to pay fines.

A sane person would not view this as a logical policy from any angle," says the report. "It may be that he actually derives some strange sort of pleasure from locking people up but this was outside our remit. What is undeniable is that being confined to a Cabinet has deterioration in the behaviour

of the subject, a change of which he has no awareness. Part of the reason for his unwitting change seems to be that when you are confined to a Cabinet like Mr Howard you are surrounded by members of a peer group who suffer from the same deficiencies. "It is not easy to

generalise," says the report.

But then it goes on to say, Sorry, that's wrong. It IS easy to generalise, and one thing we can say is that almost everyone in such a Cabinet is subject to driving ambition, ruthless opportunism, dishonesty in spreading rumours about colleagues or leaking documents, an inability to distinguish the truth and an increasing reluctance to admit the truth to the public. It is sometimes said that the best way to promote crime is to lock up criminals in the same place together, for as long as possible, and the same is

certainly true of politicians." Mr Howard's behaviour has certainly not improved during his sojourn in the Cabinet. Before he went in he had never been in trouble with the law. However, the longer he has stayed in this

Cabinet, the more he bas been in trouble with courts who have repeatedly condemned him for lawbreaking. He has shown no remorse, no awareness of wrongdoing - indeed, he has tended to brag about it as if it makes him appear more macho. He has gone in front of large crowds and gloried in it. He has recently even acquired the delusion that he might be the next leader of the Tory party. He suffers, in brief, from that rare disorder: an excess of self-esteem.

"Power, fame and media exposure are powerful drugs," says the report. "They circulate freely in this Cahinet, despite denials. They cause unusual behaviour patterns. We do not hlame Mr Howard for his present condition. This is no time to apportion blame. All we ask is that Mr Howard be taken out of the Cabinet where he has been for far too long and returned to the community. It may still not be too late for

him to be useful to society." If you wish to know more about this distressing case, please write (c/o me) to the Penal League for Howard

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Leopards that will spring out on Labour

Peter Lilley lay like a leopard in the long grass. choosing his moment in spring upon Harriet Harman. He waited until Gordon Brown made his punishing tax and spending promises on Manday and then he pounced. It was a rapid and deadly stratagem, an amhush other Labour shadow ministers can expect as a result of Brown's impossibilist commitment that Labour would spend no more on each department than the Government has budgeted for over the next two years: the Govern-ment itself would never have managed in siay within those

This is what Lilley has done: in the Budget the Chancelinr annunced that the Lone Parent Premium, (£5.20 extra fnr single parents nn income support) and One Parent Benefit (£6.30 far working single par-ents) will be axed. It was a neat ploy, signalling mural disapproval of single parents while saving £100m a year.

Harman protested that the cus would hit the weakest but otherwise no great cry went up. The silence was eerie. Once, hundreds of thousands would have been out on the streets in protest, hut times have changed: people are resigned

nerable group, so cutting their benefits is dangerous cruelty. But th cut the premium that helps those in work is plain madness, as many will sink back into uncomployment. This is one of the most monstrous things this government has dune - though you wouldn't think so from the lack of public indignation.

Be that as it may, this is the Tory Social Security Secretary's trap: to make these cuts he must consult his Advisory Committee, then put a Bill through Parliament. That cannot be done before June - by which time Labour could be in power. So will Harman, as her very first act. implement these cuts, or will she find £100m to plug the gap that Brown is committed to

keeping at its present level?
Here is Lilley's triumphant letter:

state. They must be z

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Dear Harriet, "This afternoon Gordon Brown pledged to stay within the public spending limits. Our spending plans depend on retaining and implementing my social security reforms. Yet you have opposed or criticised all these reforms. Can you confirm ... that you will introduce in government our proposed legislation ... for to cover the shortfall. If not, then Brown has government our proposed legislation ... for single parents ...

"Will new Labour carry through these Conservative policies which you have criticised? If not, what other specific programmes will you cut to keep overall spending the same? You cannot duck these questions: people will know that evasive waffle in Opposition means

expensive whammies in Government.
Yours sincerely, Peter Lilley."



Polly Toynbee

Peter Lilley sets a £100m trap for Harman over tax pledges

still have to he answered in every department. Harman declined in step neatly into his trap. She side-stepped, reply-"By using money from a windfull levy on the excess and unfair profits of the privatised

ministers have already given up

the ghost, but such questions

utilities we will ger 250,000 under 25-year-olds off benefit and into work and create opportunities for people whn have been unemployed for over two years by offering a National Insurance holiday in employers whn take them on ... A Labour government will inherit a social security system which you and your government have made expensive for taxpayers and degrading for claimants. We will have to start work immediately on making the system

Yours sincerely, Harrier." So, will she or won't she introduce Tory legislatinn in cut single parents' benefits? "No. nf course nnt," she says when asked, So how will she pay for the shortfall? By getting many of the 1 million single parents on benefits hack in work and saving their income support. 500,000 of them have a youngest child aged five nr over

to government callousness, or simply dnn't care. Single parents account for most of the huge growth in poverty. They are the most vulone gave them a push. The part-time jobs are there and Labour has promised the necessary after-school clubs from the lottery fund. Currently, single mothers just receive a letter nace every three years and are nnt registered unem-ployed, and nn one urges them into work.

Maybe, then, she can escape this particular trap, if Brown is satisfied with her reply. But the last budget, as it is analysed more carefully by the experts, contains all kinds of deliberate dishonesties - land-mines for incoming ministers trying to keep within its impossible limits

Just take some of the social security estimates, for instance: the Budget reckons a new Fraud Bill will save £7bn, but few experts think so. £1 bn is supposed to be saved by a new DSS computer; others strongly doubt it. Estimates for social security land sales are extraordinarily optimistic. Never before has the DSS deducted a notional sum for an expected fall in unemployment (increases during bad employ-ment years were never added.) "Honest" Ken Clarke knows he won't be facing the music, so he has produced a budget full of holes. If, by some miracle, he finds himself back in the hot foolishly swallowed his bait by promising to abide by an unworkable budget.

If things look grim in social security, that is nothing compared to the calamity that will hit the incoming health minister. In the last 17 years, NHS real growth has averaged 2.6 per cent a year. But the limits Brown has signed up to are: this year the NHS gets only 0.9 per cent, next year 0.8 per cent, the year after 0.7 The increasing use of the unconditional future tense - "you will introduce in government" - may be gratifying evidence that Tory leopards awaiting their Labour shadows.

The lush rhythms of poetry and pubs

leohol is the may-pole of poetry life. many solids, for purely (of cnurse) econnmic reasons. Poets get paid peanus, and at parties they hover round tables lapping things up like camels facing a meal-less desert. Six drinks and a pack of crisps are standard supper. You don't often see a fat poet, though Seamus Heaney's putting it on a little now.

Sn the Australian poet Les Murray, who won the TS Elint Prize last week, breaks records for the unsayable, exploring the shame of fatness (a boy nn the beach "halding his wet T-shirt nff his hreasts"), and making fat spark off against all the other cruelties he writes

But that's Australia. Let's say you don't see many fat British or Irish poets.

On the economic front, I once watched Carol Ann Duffy see off a large salaried journalist at a literary party. "How long", he said, jellying over her, "does it take you to write a poem?" "About five minutes," said Carol Ann, cool and instant as a small iced cappuccino. "And how much d'ynu get for that?" "A thousand paunds," I wish ..

Among the top 10 questions people ask poets, "Are you still writing poetry?" is a favourite: unbearable when you know you'll never write a poem again, exasperating when you're working on one. (Still building cathedrals, Mr Wren?) Another questinn, a male spe-ciality, is a line of patronising suspicion which leans on the more obvious aspects of technique (that well-documented male weakness). From Greek ship-owners to Paul Johnson, they all ask, "Dn you use rhyme?

Not using rhyme in a poem is like starting to decorate with-out white paint. You don't have to slather the walls in it; you can mix it with Apache Orange, try fancy marhling, draw regency stripes or a frieze of zebras if you like, but you must have it on hand. Poets put rhyme mid-line, if not at the end. They squash it, slant it, run and cheat with it. Rather,

maths - in shipping, or count-ing words for the Spectator. Christopher Reid performed a tour de force of harking rhymes hrilliantly last week at the Almeida Theatre, which hosts a reading of poets shart-listed far the Eliot prize. This is Reid's notorious curse-poem, the Almeida, between the rac-

I imagine, as those guys "use"



It came into its own as art of the recession – you could have a wild cultural experience in the Troubadour for £4 and get to buy a poet a drink

'poetry makes nothing hap-pen'.") Chris hinted at a magical affinity between rhyming and violence. We heard it at work in his poem about male carihou clashing on TV. Like "jousting with hatstands", he said. (Or the South Bank Show?) Good subject, the testosterone of rhyme.

It was a wonderful night at

barked back against two insomniae dogs next door. ("One has vanished since, so don't believe Auden when he says orous agents like Pat its nwn as art of the recession. You could have a wild cultural experience for £4 in the heady chiaroscuro of the Trouhadour Kavanagh, who vnu never saw at poetry readings before poet a drink. Valerie Eliot and the Poetry Book Society created the Eliot prize. People were heing turned away in glossy herds. ("Full up? But it's a poetry

reading.")
Ian McDiarmid, who runs as the newly fashionable art- rible, watching friends whose about-town. Poetry came into work you've loved and

basement, and get to buy a

But prizes are turning poetry into a hloodsport. For 10 shortlisted poets, the Eliot prize means a Sunday evening reading, a nail-biting Monday while the judges do their hit alone, then a media party the theatre, recognises poetry annnuncing the winner. Hnradmired for maybe years, waiting to hear who's wnn. Novelists face it nn telly for the Booker but it shouldn't hap-

Still, if the cost of poetry's new chic is nine souls going through hell two days a year. I suppose it must be paid. As a judge. I got rung up afterwards for comments about Les Murray by an arts editor whn didn't approve of prizes but wouldn't have had a story without them.

The Almcida evening only spullered when an Australian actor from Neighbours, invited in read Les's work (since he cnmes from the same place), said he'd never heard of him. and sent up the hlurb an the back of his book. Poet of the sacred, hui wise in this world': dnesn't leave much nut, does he?" If he'd known his jah it might have heen OK, but Neighbours dnesn't give much practice in wards and he read as if he'd just picked up his Alhanian granny's recipe for chestnut stuffing, confirming all poets in their conviction

that acturs can't read poems. Writing Poetry, an about-to-beindispensable handbook by Matthew Sweeney and John Hartley Williams (out in April), says the same. "Actors think poets can't read their own poems; poets know actors

Writing Poetry warus you of poetry's belt-tightening economics and goes deep into technicalities such as rhyme (though not its testosteronics), and other features of the pnetry landscape. Except -Matthew, John, bless the bed we all lie nn, how could you leave it out? - for alcohol. When my daughter's class dis-cussed "Do not go gentle into that good night", a clued-up kid asked, "Wasn'i Dylan Thomas an alcoholic?" "All poets are alcoholics," came the answer. Lovely daughterly bristles ("My mum's a poet and she's not ...") - hut her real view surfaced the following week when I was late picking her up. "I thought you'd done a reading, got drunk, and forgotten me." Not that I ever ... Oh well.

The writer was a judge for the 1996 T S Eliot Prize. Her most recent poetry collection is 'Fusewire' (Chatto and Windus).

Where in hear poetry, nr buy a poet a drink: Poetry Book Sociery, 0181-870-8403; Troubadour Café poetry readings, 0171-835 2282; Piccadilly Poets, 0171-287-2875.

The personal is the historical

Michael Ignatieff has pulled our century apart. And found that it's about him. By Paul Vallely

it took him from us, to die alone in an

ichael Ignatieff has tried hard ichael Ignatien has the hat to keep himself out of his history of the 20th century. But he has lived in it. So its history is his history. Even so, his personal life extrudes just once - and only for the two sentences quoted above – in the new series of Radio 4's award-winning review of the past 10 decades, 20/20, which Ignatieff takes over from John Tusa at its halfway point tonight.

Intellectuals tend to shy away from the personal; they are happier with ideas than with people. And the Canadian historian - best known for his smoothly cerebral performances nn BBC2's former arts flagship *The Late Show* – is, in an age of jangling journalistic populism, shamelessly splendidly intellectual. So is his new series. And then, in its midst, come these two odd sentences.

On the television Ignatieff comes across with a cool self-certainty which some find irritating. In the flesh he is all engaging diffidence and searching self-douht. "I didn't realise until I began, that when you have lived through an era, the history you relate will be your own personal history. Looking back, I realised that its pubimpact on me than I had supposed. So one of the sub-themes was to historicise my own experience: every single death in my family - my mother, father, aunts and uncles - five in the last 10 years - have all involved me and my immediate family in making

decisions." At the beginning of the century death was a more daily visitor. A visit to a Victorian cemetery underscores the fact that one in 10 children died

"Technology was supposed to take my expected to die before the age of 45. father's suffering from him. In the event "I'm beset by nostalgia and this series has to some extent cured me of it," he says. "You wouldn't want to check into an Edwardian hospital with appendicitis or with a child who had diphtheria. The improvement of medicine has hrought new dilemmas - but they are dilemmas I want."

And yet at the end of the 20th century we experience the phenomenon of death in the family with more moral anguish. "Was I right to turn off my aunt's ventilator?" he asks. "I think I was, but the 20th century has brought freedoms which hring hitter and difficult moments."

Medicine is just one of the subjects he tackles. 20/20 takes a thematic approach rather than a chronological one. In addition to Suffering he looks, over the next five weeks, at Creating, Spending, Growing and Constructing. But from all the themes one big question emerges: have we made moral as well as technological progress? Are morality and technology, he asks, on a collision

The question is not restricted to the area of medical ethics. It is there in politics, economics, ecology and even architecture. The dreams of the great French architect Le Corbusier ended in the unnatural gravity-defying tower blocks of the Fifties and Sixties. The lic events had made much more cathedrals of the early decades were the buildings of Chrysler, Hitler, Stalin which embodied the certainty that the world can be known and mastered. The Sixties brought the white heat of

technology. "That was the great (alse promise of modernity - that we can control our lives," says Ignatieff. But the technology that was supposed to make us safe and secure has instead created a world which is running out of control. The myth of the all-conquering sci-



Ignatieff: 'Progress of sorts'

after another. The idea of medical progress encouraged the idea of a utopia in which suffering would be abolished and death, if not abolished, would at least be postponed indefinitely." He is back to medicine again. "And yet the real enemy is disease. So why are we treating death? When is enough enough?"

Tentatively he tells the story of his mother's death. Of how, seconds after she died, a young doctor entered the room and said: "I think she needs more morphine." "My brother said: "I don't think she needs anything now, doctor.' I resented the fact that he intruded at that moment. There was some sense in which my mother's death had heen expropriated."

Perhaps that was inevitable in a century when death and hirth have moved from the home to the hospital. But in infancy and half the population entist led us to expect one triumph there is a sense also that medical

ture of endurance in a culture of of religious authority, not belief." complaint and still we can't find a meaning in suffering. Sn two-thirds of the health budget in a country like Canada goes on the terminally ill. The developed world has decided it needs in die with dignity while the Third World does not even have the wherewithal to live, with dignity nr

One of the reasons many are disappointed in the 20th century is that we still have a 19th-century Darwinian notion of progress, as the historian Christopher Cook has said. Yet the rebellinn of hippie culture, and later environmentalism, showed that there was a powerful countercurrent to the consumerism that came to rescue capitalism. "People have invested a tremen-

dous amount of meaning in their belongings – a car is a woman, a car is freedom, and so on," says Ignatieff. "But part of them knows that in the end it's just a car." Even in a world of McDonald's values nobody believes that consumption provides the answer to the ultimate questions.

That said, the traditional forum for tackling such questions - orthodox religion - is crumhling too. Ignatieff is an agnostic and not disposed to be nostalgic about religion, but it did provide a space and a language in which people could reach to the transcendent once a week. "One of the odd things about the 20th century is how those considerations have been whisked out of public life."

Like death, religion has been privatised. There is no common public language. "You feel alone, whereas in religious cultures you have a congregation and the whole proscenium arch of ritual and meaning in which life and death was framed." So we are witnessing a gradual secularisation? There has been an ebbing of public

advances have shifted us from a cul-religious doctrine. But it's the waning He detects a new, solitary, religious sensibility. "Scratch most individuals and you find some sense of the meta-

physical." It may be pick-and-mix with a hit of Buddhism, a hit of Christianity and a bit of superstition hut it is their own. If it is unarticulated or unformulated it is deeply believed. The religious impulse has gone into ethics, into the environment, into popular science, with all the interest in the Big Bang, and the international outrage over genocide which is a new thing in the 20th century. The ghost of religion has survived. "In 1915 the Turks got away with

slaughtering hundreds of thousands of Armenians; in 1994 when the Hutus did the same to the Tutsis the world intervened - inadequately and too late - but in intervened. That is moral progress of sorts."

So we are back to progress. One of the great surprises for Ignatieff in making the series was to discover how much he needed a sense of progress. Without it, as some wag nnce put it, history is just one damned thing after another. "And then one begins to think," says Ignatieff, "that one's life is just one damned thing after another. I find I need the idea of progress more than I had supposed."

And if, after the grandiose project nf modernism, the people who survive into the next millennium are suspicious of great schemes and certainties, or more sceptical, or just more conscious of environmental or other considerations, that may be no had thing. "At the end of the century we're in a very unheroic, unPromethean, unromantic culture. But it may mean it's a better place to live. Perhaps this is not such a bad time to be alive."

Michael Ignatieff presents '20/20' on Radio 4 tonight at 7.45pm.

AnimalFarm. Animal Farm is the 3rd greatest book of the century, as voted for by Waterstone's customers and Channel 4 viewers. To find out which other great works make up the 100 Books of the Century visit any Waterstone's bookshop, for an essential guide to 20th century literature. If, while you're there, you discover there are some you haven't read, from now until the end of February you can buy any four titles from the list for the price of three. To find out what some well known names think of the top 100, waich Book Choice every night this WATERSTONES BOOKS OF THE CENTURY. IN ASSOCIATION WITH CHANNEL 4. te batte: http://www.waterstoors.co.ul-Offer is said 25th for two field from a Bis with 0.05 two grounds and assume on , only in the emilians to monated to two isolated as $g_{\rm eff}$.

Myfanwy Piper

Myfanwy Piper was a writer with an unusual breadth of response to character and to art.

She was the ideal collaborator with Benjamin Britten to convey the unease of the disturbing stories that he chose, derstood what his musical imagination needed, just as in the 1930s she had responded to the new abstract painting of Mondrian and Kandinsky in Paris, and had promoted them and the young British avant-garde by founding and editing the magazine Axis. Her marriage to John Piper for more than 50 years was a close duet of writer and painter, in which their house in the Chilterns where they lived from 1935 became a creative centre for the collaborative arts.

Myfanwy Evans was born in 1911 in London, the only child of a Welsh father and an English mother of Huguenot origin. Both her grandfathers were ministers, one Welsh-speaking in Tenby, and the other, Charles Playll, a Congregational Min-ister at Louth. Her father David Evans was a dispensing chemist, and ahe grew up in his house over the shop Allchins in Englands Lane, Hampslead, It was the inspiring teaching at North Londoo Collegiate School that introduced her to the arts, and enabled her to win an Exhibition to St Hugh's, Oxford, in 1930.

Women at Oxford were then still merely a part of the background, but she was an outstanding swimmer, and captain of the team that won the university match in 1932. Her interest in modern art and literature was eocouraged by her friendship with her contemporaries Justin Blanco-White, the future architect, and Nicolete Binyon, It was through Justin's parents that she met the painter Ivon Hitchens, who invited her to join a summer painting party at Sizewell in Suf-folk in July 1934. One of the artists was John Piper, who had recently separated from his wife. He and Myfanwy were an instant success with each other, enjoying different styles of uphringing, an eight-year-old difference in age and complementary interests in modern art as admirer and practitioner. They married in 1937.

She had already arranged to spend four weeks in Paris, and Piper put her in contact with the French-American abstract painter Jean Hélion. It was a provide for him the librettos of crash course in modernism. three of his operas, as she could making appointments and visiting studios, at a unique time when there was developing a while allowing space for the new taste that was determined music he would write. She un- to be international, yet still only appealed to a tiny number of intellectually lively people. Helion encouraged her to found an English review of abstract art, and recommended her to Ben Nicholson, the

leader of the group in London.
Axis was published from 1935 to 1937, and is remarkable first for her confidence in selecting worthy contributors as writers and artists, and second for a gradual shift in taste, towards rebuilding an English primitive tradition on abstract principles, evident as much in her own editorials as in John Piper's painting.

She and John moved into the abandoned farmhouse at Fawley Bottom, beyond Henley, at first with oo water, electricity or heating. Only slowly becoming less uncomfortable, it nevertheless became the focus of a group of frieods, especially John and Penelope Betjeman, Geoffrey Grigson, and Osbert and Karen Lancaster, Betjeman so adored Myfanwy that he wrote poems about her in the totally imaginary character of a nanny, and as an undergraduate, equally unlike, at Oxford,

As her husband John began to work regularly with publishers and for public commissions, her role as artist's assistant became more demanding, and writing in any case took second place while their four children were young. The house became a refuge during the war, often for John's patron Kenneth Clark and his family. Clark commissioned from her a Penguin Modern Painters volume on Frances Hodgkins, which remains one of the most convincing appreciations of a modern British painter.

She had known Britten from the time of a notably argumentative meeting of the Group Theatre at Fawley Bottom before the war. They be-came much closer while John was designing for him and was a Director of the English Opera Group. They heard all his new



Ideal collaborator: Piper with Benjamin Britten at Aldeburgh, 1960

in modern art. The Pipers lived so far from Aldeburgh, were not part of Britten's immediate circle, and could not become. even potentially, rivals, that they were among the few who remained his lifelong friends.

It was Myfanwy who sugested that Henry James's The Turn of the Screw would appeal to him as a situation for an opera, and they at first worked together on it, informally, un-til the commission from La Fenice in Venice was arranged 1953. Problems of simplifying the plot were solved by setting it as a series of linked scenes, to be designed by John. The precise meaning of the haunting and the corruption of the children was hidden by use of poetic language, and Myfanwy was able to half-conceal and half-reveal the sexual implications, leaving much open to the music and the performance.

The friendship with Britten was later strained briefly by her and John's support for the South African dancer and choreographer John Cranko. who Britten at first accepted, hut then dismissed. For music, and Britten in turn Cranko's friend the Danish aclooked up to John as a mentor tor Erik Mork, she re-cast as a

play Kierkegaard's novel The

Diary of a Seducer.

The proposal to use another short story by Henry James, "Owen Wingrave", came from Britten, and Myfanwy adapted this pacifist dilemma as an opera for BBC television. They worked together again, before the first broadcast of Owen Wingrave in 1971, on Britten's last choice, Thomas Mann's novel Death in

Venice, beginning it during a dri-ving holiday in France with Peter Pears and John. This complex plot was reduced to scale by allocating all the roles of tempter to a single character, and the complexity was then given back to the music by a setting at multiple levels of reality, including a counter-tenor part as Apollo, and a Pentathlon, at one time planned to be acted nude. Myfanwy recently completed an opera after Strindberg's Easter, working with Malcolm Williamson.

It is remarkable how few direct portraits John made of Myfanwy, but how many indirect. These include countless life drawings, which were the foundation of some of his paintings. and conclude with photographs published as screenprints. Her

low, in small type, "Prop Sir Tobias Rodgers Bt". It was not vainglory but his self-quizzical sense of irony, the ridiculousness of life, that prompted this last extravagance. In the world of books he made a small but distinct mark, unforgettable to all who knew him. To them, he was

always Toby, handsome, witty, tirelessly and endlessly reading, learned in all sorts of recondite ways, a giver of parties, helpiess somehow and au fond unhelpable, but always irresistible. He was born in 1940, the son of John Rodgers, a pillar of J. Walter Thompson and later Radio Luxembourg, one of the founders of History Today, Con-

servative MP for Sevenoaks from 1950 to 1979. Taking Churchill'a advice always to live outside your constituency, the family settled at Groombridge, and there Toby was brought up. He got a scholar-ship to Eton, and another to Worcester College, Oxford. The Fellows' Library at Eton was then inaccessible to boys, so it was oot until he got to Oxford, where Colooel C.H. Wilkinson and John Sparrow encouraged young bibliophiles, that a sense of the extra quality of reading old books in the original editions entered his life.

By great ill-fortune he was struck down by meningitis just before he was due to take his finals, and being incapacitated before rather than during the examinations was unable even to get an aegrotat, which would have been at least a degree, as well as

as "two of the most completean agreeable anachronism. He had not fully recovered ly humanised people I have ever when he went out into the world to look for a living. After a very short time teaching ship. Myfanwy was renowned as English in a language school, he found his way to Bernard Quara pioneer of a French style of cooking (first learnt from Bouitch, the great antiquarian book-sellers, then in Grafton Street. lestin). They gave memorable partles, often with fireworks, in which the house was turned into E.M. Dring, the managing director, had not long before lost his close colleague and friend Oliver Howard, who had died untimely, and was looking immediately for a bright young man to help, but with an eye furthe loss of her eldest child, the ther ahead for a successor. Rodgers was not to know this nor the startling impact that his possible to looking after her husband John in his slow decline letter asking for a joh, on Brooks's Club writing paper, made at Quaritch's. But Dring. who had a prescient sense for talent, was not misled by that or Rodgers's rather lackadaisical manner (he was still far from

> view just before Christmas 1962. He began work at Quaritch early in the New Year, and, although it was hard for him to adjust to the old-fashioned discipline and venerable suroundings, he realised that he had found his métier. He learnt a great deal from Ted Dring and became immensely fond of him, as he of Rodgers. This did not stop their having rows, sometimes respectable rows, when Rodgers's great learning and independent judgement suggested changes in ways of selling books that had hardly altered since the 19th century, sometimes less so when Rodgers arrived late or was late back after lunch. But gradually his style he could write like an angel hegan to find its way into Quaritch's staid catalogues.

well) when he came for inter-

His moment of glory came with a special catalogue on trade and commerce, which he entitled How to Get Rich. He got away with that, but there was another row when Dring asked him to write an introduction; Rodgers refused and walked out. Next morning he came in with a perfect introduction. It began, characteristically: "This catalogue consists of the bottom of a remarkable West Country barrel." It was, however, his

swan-song at Quaritch's. The constrictions of a large firm stirred longings for inde-pendence, and io May 1968 he set up an independent business with his friend Paul Grinke, up some very steep steps in Brutoo Place. They began with two catalogues, the first Grinke's on art and architecture, the second Rodgers's, on English Books 1510-1740. It was the time when the Royal Institution was selling its older books and there were rich pickings, particularly books of the Haguenot scholar Louis Dutens. The mixture was, in the event, too rich, and Grinke and Rodgers amicably weot their

separate ways in 1970. Next year Rodgers published his first independent catalogue. A Small But Important Collec-

tion of Elizabethan and Stuart "J. F. T. Rodgers, Rare Books", Liberature. This was no more, in the last catalogue read, and befact rather less than, the truth: its chief achievement was the identification of Youths Wine, an allusive miscellany, as the work of Robert Greene. Five more such catalogues followed, each one with its share of books that no one else would have found or seen the signficance of, all described with the same eye for

quality of text or condition, in

words as felicitous as witty.

Sir Tobias Rodgers Bt

It was this that led me to ask him to write for the quarterly magazine the Book Collector. He did - occasionally; it was a joint agony for it hurt him to write as it did me to wait and wonder if it would ever come. But what he wrote when he did was so well worth waiting for that the cost seemed unimportant. There was a wonderful piece on a Proust exhibition, his note pointing out, in the middle of a correspondence on genuine deaths by falling from library ladders, that the com-poser Alkon did not so die, hut was crushed by a bookcase falling on top of him.
In 1978, with Justine Bu-

denz, a refugee from Christie's, Rodgers opened a bookshop in Cecil Court. He called it Quevedo, and the name of the Spanish visionary, oovelist and scholar was apt. Increasingly in love with Spain, he kept a stock as much Spanish as English, always early and out of the way. But shopkeeping was ool really his line. Regular hours, indeed keeping the place open at all, never seemed to matter very much. One day, he shut the shop for good and moved the stock, eventually, to Charlotte Street,

where, for the time being, it slept. There was too much else to engage him. He could never resist the good things in life, and some of the bad ones too. "Nothing that he eats does him any good, and oothing that he drinks does him any harm," said his servant of the last life fellow of Trinity. The same was long true of Tohy Rodgers. Women loved him and did their best to feed him, but nothing filled out his wraith-like thinness: otherwise a diet of Gauloises or more awful Spanish weeds and vodka seemed to have no other effect on him. He travelled a lot: to Spain often, to Czechoslovakia with the art dealer Kasmin, to Burma for a long time. And he gave the most memorable parties in and around his flat in Warwick Avenue. You would be summoned at short notice or none, and there would be wonderful food and drink, and such people: the famous, the hrilliant, the difficult, the unknown - a model here, a laxi driver whose con-

was a wild mixture. But nothing seemed to be coming of it. He became more reclusive, drank too much: What's become of Toby?" his friends would ask nervously. Then, suddenly, the magic returned. Last year another catalogue appeared, with all the old diversity and charm, and then another, if anything more di-verse and delightful. But with the books, there was a faint music in the air, a fleeting habanera, that seemed to die away, as when the gods deserted Antony. Ill he visibly was, but he had given up drinking. Why did he have to go just when the magic seemed to have returned?

versation had amused him.

The joke was always un him. writes James Fergusson. Tobias Rodgers was a sublimely comic figure, ridiculously tall, painfully thin, with lugubrious voice and (for a long time) moustache to match. He told stories of what might have been - dead-pan stories, himself their hutt - of how he nearly bought this nearly sold that; of how, again, he might have made his fortune. There would be a hint of infinite sadness, and theo - then, he would writhe with laughter.

The last 20 years of Tohy's life, when I knew him, were a celehratioo of failure: a triumphant assertion that the individual was more important than the system; a fiesta of perverse integrity. Toby was a brilliant linguist, as able in Turkish as Basque, who oever fouod a use for his languages except in ingeoiously complicated holidays and imagined artsmuggling heists. He was an expert on the Spanish Civil War who never wrote the book on anarchism which he for 35 years intended. He was an elegant and economical writer who, indeed,

hardly wrote anything; an unlikely career as a restaurant reviewer for Vogue faltered after barely one meal. He was a gifted pouncer on girls who never sustained a lasting relationship; a keen cook who almost gave up eating, an enthusiast for gardening, for bridge, for racing, who would do anything rather than work but deplored his indolence. He was, too, an extraordinary

and generous giver of parties -when he turned up to them. He threw enormous dinners round his ping-pong table; he organised massive communal firework displays for Guy Fawkes Day. Bul sometimes there was a slip between cup and lip; on one occasion his dinner guests were so alarmed when they found themselves massed on the pavement outside his brightly ht house pealing on the bell that they called the police. On gaining entry, they found his French windows open and the trail of his footprints across a dewy lawn. Toby had run away.

If he didn't run away, he could fail altogether to buy food for his guests, or buy food (I remember once a huge, delicious sea bass) and be too drunk to cook it. Toby had a drink problem. But, as with many drink problems, it was not so much a drink problem as a life problem. He saw himself as a hero in an unequal struggle: a struggle with his father, even after his father had died; a steady tussle in the book trade, where he was the only person in step and all other dealers had giveo in to some suburban Mephistopheles.

He told me once, a few bottles on, that he was the best, the



best, cataloguer of old books living, there was no one to touch him. It was late. One nodded. The last time he had produced a catalogue was in the late 1970s from Quevedo in Cecil Court, the shop that was never open. Then, in January 1996, out of nowhere, from J.F.T. Rodgers of Charlotte Street open, underneath the Oldie), came 100 Rare Books on 100 Different Subjects, a catalogue that was sui generis, quirky, seductive, various, perfectly formed.

In an unusual prefatory note. he described himself as "more of a boulevardier than a bookseller" and the spirit of the boulevardier flowed beguilingly through the catalogue, "I cannot imagine," he wrote of one item, "who would want to huy a volume bound in about 1760 containing works on painting. the cedars of Lebanon, designs for country houses and what the female beau monde of Edinburgh wore in 1756. I hope that such a person exists."

The books were on all subjects from archery and lunacy and the human digestion to vipers, calligraphy and the wine trade, farmhouse design and the fall of Granada. The highlight was a miniature he asserted to he by Nicholas Hilliard, at £28,000, hut equally interesting were his (few) items under £100, or, at £700, the printed account of he first Sahara crossing en automobile, 1924, inscribed by Monsieur Citroen himself and, much later, David Hockney. The catalogue was a tour de force, and Bernard Levin, of all people, devoted a whole column to it in the Times.

A second catalogue followed in October, More Rare Books on Very Diverse Subjects, equally deft and diverting, and a third was promised of books oo the Ottoman Empire - "scant but rare and in the finest condition". Now it will never appear. The old rogue: there are only his footprints in the grass.

John Fairlie Tobias Rodgers, antiquarian bookseller: born 2 July 1940; succeeded 1993 as second Bt; died London 19 January 1997.

Nicholas Hinton

The manner of Nicholas Hin- cultural analogies when deton's death, whilst on a peacekeeping mission in Croatia with the International Crisis Group. was a metaphor for his life: in action, doing what he believed in, with passion and commitment that few could match. The voluntary sector in the UK and the international community has lost a respected public servant whose wisdom was sought and whose energy was envied by friends and colleagues worldwide.

By 1985, when he became Director-Geoeral of the Save the Children Fund, Hioton was already a respected and wellknown champion of the voluntary sector, having heeo Director of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations for seven years and also Chief Executive of the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (Nacro). When he left Nacro in 1977, the Permanent Secretary and senior officials at the Home Office held a reception for him as a tribute to his achievements

in that organisation.
In 1977 he joined the National Council of Social Service (later to become the National Council for Voluntary Organisations) at a critical moment in its history. Despite its many past achievements, in the mid-1970s NCVO presented a confused and unfocused image to the world and the voice of the voluntary sector lacked force. With Sara Morrison as Chair, Hinton brought clarity, direction and a new confidence to the organisation, as well as fun and enthusiasm. Although finding constituents - the children and little time for gardening whilst

at NCVO, he often used horti-

scribing his managerial objectives: he was particularly keen on "pruning" and "making He combined steely deter-

mination with down-to-earth realism and the ability to pick a hrilliant staff team, winning the support and resources of government, charitable trusts and other backers for his ideas. He was good at spotting issues: the role voluntary organisations could play in combatting unemployment and providing alternatives for those out of work, the importance of cultivating and nurturing local voluntary action as a voice for the voiceless, a provider of services and enabling people to do things for themselves. Above all he spoke up for the vital independence of voluntary action and the oeed to protect and nurture that quality, regardless of whether it made others

In 1985 Hintoo brought to Save the Children those managerial characteristics that had reformed NCVO. He found an organisation that was cosy and confident hut perhaps lacking was able to provide: as Director-General, he was faced with challenges of global proportions and was immediately brought face to face with the inertia, complexity and bureaucracy of United Nations agencies, whose reform he advocated for many years. Although Hinton was no revolutionary, he was a politician who achieved a huge amount for his young people of the world -

fice. Fortunately for the voluntary sector, he came second in the one Parliamentary seat he contested, for the SDP, in Somerton and Frome, in 1983.

Selwyn College, Cambridge, was apparent in his formidable skills as an administrator. Hinton transformed Save the Children: he focused its mission, raised its income to over £100m and reformed its structures. But amid a welter of activity his office door was always open to give advice or hear complaints. He once described his style as "tough hut honourable". a description which would he recognised by the successive Ministers for Overseas Development, Chris Patten, and Barooess Chalker, with whom Hinton worked closely. Always his own man, he combined with this ao acute sense of pol' al reality, using his extensive cootacts within Whitehall discreetly to bring influence to bear on legislation that better favoured children both at home or

He was a fearless spokesperson. His strong leadership, authority and convictions were qualities matched by those of the Princess Royal. Save the Children's President. Together over 10 years, they worked to huild a reputation for the Fund as an experienced and respected authority on development

The contradi_uon of his life was that he gave so much for others and perhaps left not enough time for himself. Professionally he was a very private person, finding it difficult to articulate his feelings to his closest colleagues. Even after the

volte-face of the Millennium Commission in October 1994, who appointed him as their first Chief Executive only to undergo a change of mind, he said The legacy of reading law at little. But it must have come very hard and to all who knew him it was an extraordinary turn of events for a man with such an extraordinary record of successful leadership and wide

experieoce. He was perhaps reminded of the frustration of his teenage vears, when, as an outstanding treble at Salisbury Cathedral School, his voice, after breaking, failed to become the expected mature tenor depriving him of a possible choral scholarship. However, life as a chorister imbibed spiritual convictions which underpinned his life: and which were reflected in both his public and private worlds. His clear seose of service was shown in his support and membership of a wide range of organisaliuns, including directing the Edington Music Festival 1965-70, and chairing the forum panel at the Royal Society of Arts where he was a leading Fellow from

1931 until his death. Characteristically Hintoo emerged from the disappointment over the Millennium Commission with enormous dignity and took his talents to serve as the founder and President of the International Crisis Group, a London-hased organisation working discreetly lo intervene to prevent conflict. His work with ICG built on his already extensive global connections to implement the Dayton Agreements. His in-



practical gifts to John's art are

evident, but far more important

was her equal contribution to

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John delighted in working with

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In her last years she endured

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Mary Myfanwy Evans, art critic

and librettist: born London 28

March 1911; married 1937 John

Piper (died 1992; one son, two

died Fawley Bottom, Bucking hamshire 18 January 1997.

ghters, and one son deceased);

David Fraser Jenkins

workplace was vital.

until his death in 1992.

Hinton: 'tough but honourable Photograph: UPPA

from the international statesmeo and women who worked with him to build a safer, more peaceful world.

Deborah, his devoted wife, was a constant source of support in a hectic and varied life; both she, and his daughter Josie, provided Nicholas with a haven of calm and tranquility amidst a schedule that proved to be too much. Nicholas was a man of big visions whose humour, sense of fun (particularly his colourful socks), and determination will be greatly missed. Andrew Hutchinson

Nicholas John Hinton, charity administrator: born 15 March 1942; Assistant Director, Northorpe Hall Trust 1965-68; Assistant Director, National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Of-fenders 1968-73. Director 1973 77: Director, National Council for Voluntary Organisations (formerly National Council of Social Service) 1977-84; CBÉ 1985; Director-General, Save the Children Fund 1985-94; President, International Crisis Group 1995-96; married 1971 Deborah Vivian tegrity, honesty and ficrce in-tellect commanded respect tia 20 January 1997.

DEATHS

DOYLE: Martin William, partner of Solange and gniding, guardian fa-ther to Ra, unexpectedly on 17 Jan-uary, at home, Barton St David, Somerset, Creative jeweller, born 11 November 1948, in Esmonth, "Town of Flowers", Devon. Lovely, unique and sympathetic partner, guardian, brother and a best friend to many, who loved and will miss him deeply. Fu-neral at St Peter's, West Lydford, Som-erset, Saturday 25 Jonuary at 2.30pm.

MANSFIELD COOPER: On 17 January 1997, passed peacefully away in Hinchingbrooke Hospital, Huntingdon, Mabel, aged 93 years, wife of the late Sir William Mansfield Cooper. The funeral service will take place at Cambridge Crematorium, the New Mest Chesel on Thursday 30 Lanu-West Chapel, on Thursday 30 January at 1.30pm. Donations for the Macmillan Hinchingbrooke Cancer

Births, Marriages & Deaths

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Care Appeal may be sent care of William Peacock & Sons, Orchard Lane, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire

MASON: Ronald Charles Frederick, on 16 January 1997, in hospital. Funer-al Service at All Souls' Church, Langham Place, London W1, Tuesday 28 January, at 11am. Family flowers only please, donations to the Actors Benevolent Fund. Enquiries to J.H. Kenyon Ltd, 0171-937 0757.

PIPER: Myfanwy, died peacefully at bome, on Saturday 18 January 1997.

Family funeral. A celebration will take place later.

RODGERS: Sir Tobias, Bt, died 19 January 1997, in his 57th year, at War-wick Avenue, London W. The functal will be held at the Church of St John the Evangelist, Groombridge, Kent. at 12 noon on Friday 24 January.

WOOLLAM: On 14 January 1997, in-Worthing Mar-aret Leonora, wife of the late David Woollam, adored mother of Christopher, Leonora, Katharine and Victoria, and grand-mother of Hannah, Richard, Georgina, Duncan. Leonora and Elizabeth. Funeral service at Worthing Cremaruncias service in working Crema-torium. Findom, on Friday 31 Janu-ary at 5pm. Family flowers only please, but if desired douations made payable to 1 TU Unit, Worthing Hostal, c/o F. A. Holland & Son, 10 Station Parade, Tarring Road, Worthing.

IN MEMORIAM

POLIAKOFF: Alexander, OBE. A Memorial Gathering for Alex, who died on 26 July 1996, will be held at the Savile Club, London, on Tuesday 18 March, 6pm to 8.30pm, Entrance by invitation only, Telephone 01 L5 951 3485, Fax 01 L5 951 3563.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS

MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memo-rial services, Wedding anniversuries, In Memoriam! should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent to the Categorie English, The Endependent, L Canada Square, Canary Wharf, Lon-don E.I.4 5DI., telephoned to 0171-293 2011 tanswering machine 0171-293 2012) or fixed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT catra) OTHER Gazette announcements and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. They should be accompanied by a day-time telephone number.

Birthdays

Miss Mary Hayley Bell, playwright. 86; Admiral Sir Lindsay Bryson, Lord-Lieutenant for East Sussex, 72; Sir John Cotton, former diplomat, 88; Sir Charles Davis, former Counsel to the Speaker, 88; Mr George Foreman, heavyweight boxing champion, 49; Miss Ann Goddard QC, circuit judge, 61: Miss Margaret Hall, head of design, British Museum, 61; Proand chief executive, Thom EMI, 73. fessor Cyril Hogarth, physicist, 73; Lord Hughes, former Minister of

State for Scotland, 86; Mr John Hurt. actor, 57; Mr John Last, arts patron and director, Public Affairs. North West Water Group, 57; Baroness Lockwood, former President, Birkbeck College, 73; Miss Elizmanager, 1868; Queen Victoria, Jones, Sabeth Lynne MP, 49; Dr Lotte 1901; Walter Richard Sickert, 5.30pm.

Newman, President, Royal College of General Practitioners, 68; Sir Alfred Ramsey, former football manager, 77; Mrs Claire Rayner, journalist and broadcaster, 66; Mrs Gillian Shephard MP, Secretary of State, Education and Employment, 57: Miss Ann Sothern, actress, 88; Sir Michael Spicer MP, 54; Sir Hilary Talbot, former High Court judge, 85; Sir Graham Wilkins, former chairman

Anniversaries

Births: Sir Francis Bacon, statesman and lawyer, 1561; George Gordon Byron, sixth Baron Byron, poet, 1788. Deaths: Charles Kean, actor-

painter, 1942, On this day: Inc Falk- | land Islands were ceded to Britain by Spain, 177t; Ramsay MacDonald, the first Labour prime minister, took of fice, 1924, Today is the Feast Day of St Anastasius the Persian, Si Berhi-wald of Ramsbury, St Blesilla, St Do-minic of Sora, St Vinceni Pallotti and St Vincent of Saragossa.

Lectures

Royal Society Science Lecture, Na tional Portrait Gallery: Professor Angus Buchanan, Images of the Brunels: a dynasty of engineers 1.10pm. Michael Faraday Lecture, Royal So

Jones, "What Sex Really Means"

ciety. London SW1: Professor Steve

The Princess Royal visits the British Ge-The Princess Royal visits the British Ge-ological Survey, Keyworth, Nottingham; as President, the Princess Royal Trust for Car-ers, visits Nottingham Carers Centre; opens the new Carlton Police Divisional Headquarters, Nottingham; and as Patron, the National Association of Citizens Ad-vice Bureaux, gives a dinner for Corporate Heads at Buckingham Palace. The Duke of Kent, Patron, the Royal United Services Institute for Defence Studies, presents the Chesney Gold Medal to the Marquess of Anglessy, London SW1.

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ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

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Royal Bank spearheads Internet revolution '

average purchase double that achieved in

ing via phone or fax. The remainder have been ordering through the Internet option, a higher proportion than expected.

"We're really pleased with the response from customers," Tesco said. "People are

ordering across the product range not just

the staple products, but fresh meat, fruit and vegetables too."

al last October, offering the service to hold-ers of its Clubcard loyalty scheme.

Tesco launched its Internet shopping tri-

Wide body planes

The battle for supremacy as manufacturers jockey for share of \$1,000bn market

Half of the customers have been order-

Banking Correspondent

Royal Bank of Scotland will spearhead a revolution in banking in the spring with the launch of the first fully-fledged Internet service. The move by RBS steals a march on its high street rivals, most of which are only experimenting with a directlinked home banking service.

TSB has offered home banking since last year, and Barclays is working towards the launch of a similar service. Access to both services, however, is restricted and will not be available on the Internet.

RBS does not expect a mad dash to take up the service and intends to offer Internet bank-ing to 500,000 telephone customers initially. Providing they have the necessary equipment customers will be able to conduct a variety of banking services through the Internet, such that Internet and other virtual

ments, viewing standing orders and direct debits and paying bills to more than 750 companies.

counts beld at RBS, and transfer financial data to accounting packages such as Microsoft Money 97 and spreadsheets.

Customers will need a personal computer with Microsoft Windows technology and access to the Internet to use the sys-tem. RBS will charge £1.50 a month to bank via the Internet, after a free trial period of six

This surprised some analysts, such as Claus Nehmzow, principal at Booz Allen & Hamilton, a consultancy firm. who points out that the benefit for banks of offering services on the Internet is that it is cheap.

Mr Nehmzow has calculated

as printing out bank details, dis-playing balances and statethan traditional methods, so that, for instance, banks on the Internet can operate at expense ratio of 15 to 20 per cent compared with 60 per cent for

ping trial to five new areas following an

encouraging performance at its pilot scheme in Osterley, west London, writes Nigel

Cope. New services will start in Hammersmith and Leeds next month. Lea

Valley in north-west London and Romford, Essex, will follow after Easter. A trial in

Tim Mason, Tesco's marketing director

says: "We are excited about the results in

Osterley. We want to find out if that is some-

thing special to that area or if it can be

Tesco claims that the Osterley trial has

Commercial jet market forecast

replicated elsewhere.

\$1.130bn (16,000 planes):

Medium 41%

Sutton, Surrey, will start in the spring.

RBS defended its decision to charge for the system. "We put a lot of investment into it and we hope we're providing a system that customers want," said Bill Bougourd, bead of electronic services with RSB's retail banking services.

absolutely committed to maintaining a competitive package." He declined to reveal the amount of investment put into the system but such services are generally estimated to cost between £1m and £2m to set up.

"It is a modest charge. We're According to Booz Allen & said this had been of para-solutely committed to main- Hamilton, the operating cost ba- mount importance to RBS and sis is also low in terms of maintaining the Internet sites.

RBS said it had overcome one of the main barriers to providing Internet banking - security for users. Mr Bougourd

Tesco to expand shopping trial in cyberspace Tesco is to extend its Internet home shop- attracted "hundreds" of devotees with the Customers can choose from 20,000 prod-

nct lines, the same as in a normal store. They pay a £5 fee for delivery. Tesco is the most advanced of the big supermarkets in home shopping. Sains-bury's is also conducting trials and has links with a home delivery company in south London called Flanagan's. Tesco's Tim Mason said the aim was to help customers to shop "without the physical effort of shopping". Users of the Tesco service say it can take

up to two hours to place the first order as the system is unfamiliar. After that the process can take only 15 minutes

that its security system was "ex-tremely robust" and had been checked by experts who worked for the Ministry of Defence.

All customer data is scrambled to ensure privacy and can-not be added, deleted, replayed or tampered with. The central computer server is also fire-walled from inside and out, providing a protective barrier between the internal network and the Internet.

Customers will need passwords to use the system and their PCs will need to be registered. RBS said it was so confident ahout security that if customers bad taken care to keep their security details secret, they would not be liable for any ransactions on their accounts which they had not authorised.

Around 11 per cent of adults in the UK use the Internet but this proportion is expected to es-

calate to such an extent that Mr Nehmzow estimated that 80 per cent of European banks would provide a full banking service over the Internet within three years.

He said that 15 per cent of American customers would conduct at least some of the banking activities via the Internet by 2000. While Europeans were slower to catcb on, Mr Nehmzow said banks on this side of the Atlantic believed that 10 to 20 per cent was not an unrealistic target for this period.

The first users were more likely to be young because they had access to the Internet, Mr Nehmzow said.

Such forecasts for the use of the Internet are further evidence of the radical change under way in banking in Britain and provide further proof that the days of visiting a bank manager in a branch are over.

Comment, page 19

Boeing calls halt on \$7bn super-jumbo project

Michael Harrison

Boeing dropped a bombshell on the aviation industry yesterday by shelving plans to huild a stretched version of its 747 jumbo jet, claiming that the market was too small to justify the \$7bn (£4.2bn) cost of the

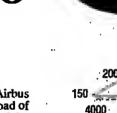
The announcement took observers by surprise and, for the time being at least, leaves Airbus Industric as the only jet manufacturer preparing to

launch a super-jumbo. The proposed 747-500X and 600X family of jets would have been capable of carrying 550 est 747 currently flying and would have entered service in 2001. The aircraft would

bave cost \$210m. The Airbus A3XX family has a payload of 555-650 seats and would be priced at \$198m.

Despite twice delaying the launch of the programme, Boeing had been expected to give the go-ahead later this year, However, Ron Woodard, president of the Boeing Commercial Airplane Group, said yesterday: "Sufficient market demand has not yet developed to justify committing the significant investment required to develop larger versions of the

Boeing estimates the market for aircraft with more than 500 passengers - 140 more than the seats at 470 whereas Airbus 1,400. Airbus says the A3XX together, saying it would conwill cost \$8bn to build but Boe- tinue to study airplanes capable



all-new aircraft. Mr Woodard said that Boeing had decided instead to concentrate on developing new

to other areas of the company.

ing claims the cost will be of carrying more passengers nearer \$20bn because it is an than today's 747.

versions of its twin-engined wide-bodied family of aircraft the 767 and the 777. All but a small number of the 1,000 or so engineers that had been working on the 747-600X programme are being redeployed

"This remains one of the priorities of our product-devel-opment efforts," Mr Woodard said. "When the market develops for such an aircraft, we will

An Airbus spokesman said: "The feedback we have been getting from the market is that airlines are interested in a new from \$5bn to \$7bn. technology, state-of-tbe-art aeroplane. The A3XX can finding it difficult to pin down Boeing has not, bowever, offer that, whereas the launch customers for the airstretched 747 does not neces- craft. Although it had letters of

been based on an airframe that dates back to the 1960s in

In recent months, Boeing bad been under increasing pressure from potential airline customers to upgrade the proposed aircraft and put flyby-wire technology into its cockpit. This bad forced it to raise the its cost projections

intent from Thai Airways and The 747-600X would have Malaysian Airlines to buy about market. Indeed, there was the jumbo market with orders

20 jets, the prize it was looking for was a launch order from Singapore Airlines or, better still, British Airways.

BA, bowever, had made it clear that it had other priorities to deal with than adding a super-jumbo to its fleet. BA is concentrating instead on gain-ing approval for the transatlantic tie-up with American Airlines and achieving its goal

of £1bn in cost savings.

Despite yesterday's announcement from Boeing, aviation observers doubt that it has given up on the super-jumbo

some speculation that it may have made the announcement to sow doubts in the minds of airline customers about the need for the Airbus A3XX.

1996 to 2015 . ..

The two manufacturers have been playing a cat and mouse game over whether and when they will launch their rival programmes for the last four years. At one stage the four Airbus partners – British Aerospace, Aerospatiale of France, Daimler Benz of Germany and spain's Casa - conducted joint the aircraft to customers late studies with Bocing.

Boeing has a monopoly in the programme in 1999.

for the latest version, the 747-400, standing at 482. About a third of its profits are reckoned to come from this one aircraft. The 747-500X would have a

payload of 450 passengers and a range of more than 8.500 miles. The 747-600X would have slightly more range but one-third more payload.
On current planning, the

A3XX is due to enter service in 2003. Airbus is due to gain next year and formally launch

Pound drives home Clarke's dilemma

Diane Coyle and Nic Cicutti

Export orders bave started to suffer because of the strength of the pound, according to a survey published by the Confederation of British Industry yesterday. But separate figures sbowing strong mortgage de-mand highlighted the Chancellor's dilemma over interest rates.

Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, signalled earlier this week that he had advised higher borrowing costs to tame consumer demand despite the recent rise in the pound. Mortgage figures from the Building Societies' Association, showing that new lending grew nearly 50 per cent last year, underlined the Bank's concerns yesterday. However, the CBI said the

decision was "finely balanced". from the Building Societies As-Ross Buckland, chief executive of foods group Unigate and a member of the CBI's economic affairs committee, In the final quarter of last said: "We say, looking at all the elements, that no interest rate almost £4bn, were 95 per cent se is justified at present." up on the fourth quarter of 1995.
Paul Mortimer-Lee, chief Although net advances dipped rise is justified at present.

economist at investment bank Paribas, said: "It is a choice between two evils. Either interest rates are going to be too low or the exchange rate is going to be too bigh." The CBI's quarterly survey of

manufacturers showed that export orders had levelled off for the first time since October 1993. Manufacturers' optimism about exports bad also fallen. The survey showed output had grown steadily over the past

four months, although its rate of growth had slowed. General business optimism was steady, and there was a sharp rise in the balance of companies expecting to increase rather than reduce their prices. Domestic demand for consumer goods in particular was still improving.

Fresh evidence of the

housing market recovery came sociation. It said net lending in In the final quarter of last year, societies' net advances, at

slightly to £1.2bn in December. they were up 50 per cent on the same month last year. The British Bankers' Asso-

ciation said mortgage lending rose by £552m, compared to £606m in November and a sixmonthly average of £571m. But Dbarshini David, UK

economist at HSBC Markets. said seasonally-adjusted net new commitments, the amount of future lending pledged by building societies, was expected to reach 48,000 in December, the lowest in five months. "The figures reveal tentative

signs of a weakening of mortgage demand," she said. "This could reflect the disappear-ance of many fixed-rate mortgage packages following the base rate rise on 30 October." Separate figures showing an

unexpected drop of £3.8bn in total hank lending in December muddied the picture. Even though a large part of the fall was due to end-year transactions in the gilts, underlying loans were weak. The growth rate of M4, the broad money measure, fell to 9.6 from 10.8 per

Greenspan applauds 'breathtaking' climb



Good news: Alan Greenspan was upbeat about the US economy although he warned about inflationary pressures

David Usborne New York

Alan Greenspan, the Chairman of the Federal Reserve, yesterday cheered US financial markets with a broadly upbeat assessment of the American economy even as he raised a warning flag about his conceras that renewed inflationary pressures may be around the

In a testimony on Capitol Hill, Mr Greenspan also defended comments he made in December about "irrational exuberance" in the US equity markets. The remark, which sent tremors through Wall Street at the time, "was not a sbot from the hip", he insisted. The performance of the markets, he said yesterday, remained "hreathtaking".

Translating Mr Greenspan's words as favourable news, investors yesterday gave a new lift to the Dow Jones industrial average which bas continued to soar into record territory since the new year. After sagging more than 40 points at the start of trading, the index was showing a 50-point gain after Mr Greenspan's comments.

Noting the continued stable growth of the US economy. Mr Greenspan told the US Senate that the economy "has retained considerable vigour, with few signs of imbalances and inflationary tensions that have disrupted past expansions". He reported that the economy

grew about 3 per cent last year. The Chairman attributed the absence of inflationary pressure and low wage growth on several factors, in particular a continuing sense of job insecurity in the US workplace that was keeping wage pressures down. He added high US imports, increased deregulation, the declining influence of the unions and a sharp slowdown in the rise of bealthcare costs.

There was a clear warning in his testimony, however, that wages could begin to succumb to upward pressures at any time, which could feed into higher inflation. "The recent pick-up in some measures of wages suggests that the transinon may be already running its course." Mr Greenspan warned. The jobless rate in the US is at a seven-year low of only 5.3 per cent. Mr Greenspan also remind-

ed listeners that in setting monetary policy, the Fed always had to look roughly six months into the future. This was in part because there was always a time lag of about the same period before any interest rate adjustment began to hite.

That was taken by many analysts as a clear signal of the Fed's readiness to tighten monctary conditions at the first real sign of an uptick in wages and inflation. "Greenspan is clearly preparing the market for a possible tightening move. He leaves no question about that." said David Jones, an analyst

with Aubrey Lanston. The next meeting of the Fed's Open Market Committee, which sets interest rates, is scheduled for 3-4 February, by which time more data will be available to indicate whether new inflationary dangers are indeed gathering.
Addressing the extraordi-

nary ehullience of Wall Street, Mr Greenspan remarked that the "stock market continued to climb at a breathtaking rate". He was forced on to the defensive about his "irrational exuberance" quip of last Decemher by some aggressive questioning from senators. It was not a shot from the

hip," Mr Greenspan said, explaining that be had been trying to lay out all the various factors that had to be taken into account by the Fed in determining monetary policy.

We thought long and in detail that any such statement could very well have immediate

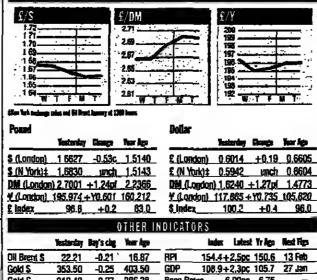
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CURRENCIES

27% Somerfield rise leaves investors cool

Maiden results from Somerfield, the supermarket group whose summer flotation was dogged by problems, were yesterday greeted with a cool response from investors and analysts, writes Nigel Cope.

Announcing a 27 per cent rise in half-year profits to £54.6m, Somerfield's chief executive, David Simons, said the group was "delivering the goods" However, analysis pointed to a weak like-for-like sales increase of just 1.7 per cent as evidence that Somerfield remained a weak player in a highly competitive sector. Several down-

graded their full-year profits forecasts to around £100m as the shares fell 5.5p to 168.5p.

Though the core Somerfield format has been trading relatively well, with same-store sales 4.3 per cent higher in the period, the old Gateway stores and Food Giant discount format are experiencing sharp sales falls of 5.5 per cent and 6 per cent respectively.

Current trading is also weak with total sales up just 1.2 per cent in the first nine weeks of the second half. The maiden interim dividend was 3.4p. Investment column, page 21

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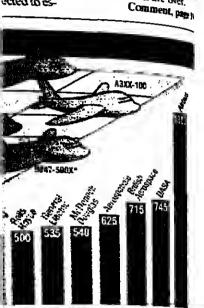
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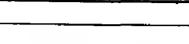
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Banking comes under threat from the Internet

Is retail banking as we know and hate it basically finished, caput, over the hill, obsolete and dead? Perhaps not quite yet but certainly that is the implication of yesterday's annuuncement from the Royal Bank Scot-land of Britaio's first fully fledged Internet bank. Quicker, more convenient, and above all, far less costly, Internet banking is the future. According to recent research from Booz Allen & Hamilton, the management

turn of the century.

Furthermore, because these people will be drawn mainly from upper-income brackets, they could account for perhaps as much as 30 per cent of retail banking profitability. The only restraint on growth is that of PC

consultants, up to 16 per cent of US house-

holds will be using Internet banking by the

and AppleMac ownership.

Don't get too carried away vet, however.

Royal Bank's Internet facility is for the time
heing only for anoraks. Far from being cheaper than traditional banking, it is more expensive. Royal is planning an extra charge for those who sign up to the new service, on top of all the other charges normally asso-ciated with a personal bank account. Indeed, the only apparent advantage of Royal's Internet bank as it stands over telephone banking is that the seasoned traveller will be able to transact hanking husiness via their lap-top for the price of a local phone call, rather than having to fork out the full long-

distance charge. None the less, it is a start, and Royal Bank

should perhaps be congratulated for beating the English clearers to the mark. First Bank of Scotland with Sainsbury, now Royal Bank with Internet banking - the Scots seem to be leading their larger rivals south of the border at the cutting edge of banking developments. For Internet banking to take off, however, it requires a new player to enter the market capable of reflecting the dra-matically lower costs of the Internet in its ebarging structure. That, or for an established bank to set up a ring-fenced Internet banking operation, like Midland with its tele-

phone banking set-up, First Direct.
The difficulty of Internet banking for the traditional players is that it only adds to costs, it is yet another service they are obliged to offer customers alongside branch

and telephooe banking.
According to Booz Allen, the average cost per banking transaction through the branch oetwork is 60p. With telephone banking it is 35p. The cost through traditional computer banking is 17p. And then there's the internet – just 8p. The cost-to-income ratio of the best of the high street hanks is around 50 per cent. With a pure Internet bank it could be as low as 15 per cent. Unen-cumbered by the high-cost branch network and infrastructure of the traditional banks, the pure internet hank can undercut with

Nor are the extraordinary cost advantages of Internet banking the only thing the tra-ditional high street banks have to fear. In

become promiscuous with his business. It might be possible, for instance, to chase the best deposit and borrowing rates automatically. Banks would lose their proprietary grip on their customer base. Instead the financial profile of customers would become the property of middle-men and software providers, with the result that banks would have to compete genuinely for husiness and custom. Retail banking would become much

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more like wholesale banking.

What Royal Bank of Scotland is doing. then, is opening Pandora's Box. Provided Internet banking can be adequately regu-lated and controlled, provided it can be made as secure as its exponents claim, it promises to usher in a much more competitive age in retail banking. That probably also means a rather less profitable one. From a customer perspective this is obviously a good thing. Given that the process is pretty much inevitable, there may also be some merit even for Royal Bank's shareholders in being first away from the starting blocks. Barclays, for one, is in rapid pursuit.

Betrayal a bad business for Heseltine

theory. Internet banking allows services presently bolted together under one roof to be unbundled, allowing the customer to that's just the way some people are. Betrayal, though, that's something else. It's dark, sor-did, sneaky and dishonest. And that is how Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Min-ister, and most of bis party feel about some of Britain's leading industrialists.

Ever since he was elected leader, Tony Blair has been attempting to break the traditional unthinking link between business and the Tory Party. As yesterday's eveous demonstrated, he's achieved some success. None of the industrialists at vesterday's IPPR conference could ever have been described as among the Tory Party's most loyal and natural supporters, but the fact that they could share the same platform as Tony Blair and put their names to a new business agenda that carries the Labour Party leadership's official blessing, marks a significant

change of approach. In truth there is probably quite a lot in the IPPR-sponsored document that Mr Heseltine himself would agree with. There is plenty else, however, which ought to be alien, not just to the Tory Party, but to these businessmeo too. For anyone who believes in free markets, there could be nothing more ridiculous than the commission's proposal that all investment funds should be forced to contribute to a Council for Institutional Investors, that would monitor and presum-

most extreme tip of a series of rigid and wholly inappropriate corporate governance proposals

But it is not this that Mr Heseltine is so fired up about. The real cause of his anger is that these people could so nonchalantly turn their backs on the most overtly pro-business administration to have ruled Britain this century: the administration that freed them from daily trench warfare with the trade unions, that deregulated everything in sight, that privatised everything that wasn't bolted down, and most things that were.

He's right to see it as betrayal for that is exactly what it is. Bob Ayling of British Airways, good friend of Jack Straw though be is, doesn't actually believe in Labour any more than he believes in the Tories. He's backing the party be thinks most likely to win the next election, and io so doing he is hoping to influence Mr Blair and bend him towards his own unds.

Betrayal? Well, yes, but even Mr Heseline knows that it is also good business. If a lot of silly corporate governance rules is part of the price that has to be paid for steering Labour away from some rather more damaging policy initiatives, so be it.

There is plenty of realpolitik in the way the business community is cosying up to Mr Blair. They may out like Labour but they are resigned to it forming the next government and need to make some accommodation. Mr Heseltine's may be a lost cause but at

least he is prepared to go down fighting.

Neau geau! Government blocks French bid for Mid Kent water

Chris Godsmark Business Correspondent

Directors of Mid Keot Holdings, one of the 19 smaller drinking water companies, were celebrating yesterday after the Government blocked a hostile takeover approach launched jointly by two French compa-nies. General Utilities and Saur, the French companies, respectively own the neighbouring Folkestone and Dover Water Services and South East Water.

COMMENT

'First Bank of

Scotland with

Sainsbury's, now

Royal Bank with

Internet banking

- the Scots seem

to be leading their

larger rivals south

of the border at

the cutting edge

developments'

of banking

The move by Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, to ban the takeover came after an investigation by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission found such a deal would be against the public interest. The announcement sent Mid Keot shares plunging by 10 per cent from 635p to 572.5p.



Drained: Mid Kent chief executive Geoff Baldwin

sion, Geoff Baldwin, Mid Kent chief executive, said: "I'm feeling drained after a year of tension. I'm lonking forward to getting back to my in-tray, running a husiness again and see-

The MMC's conclusions end months of uncertainty for Mid Kent, which has spent an estimated £2m defending itself. Its controversial campaign played on the fears of French control, coming up with the memorable if unsubtle slogans "Eau Neau You Deaun't!" and "How Leau can yous get?"
The dispute began when Saur

and General Utilities, which together own 38 per cent of Mid Kent shares, asked to buy Mid Kent as part of a plan to maximise scarce water resources in the South-east.

As the row deepened, directors of Mid Kent accused their French-controlled counterparts of acting in concert at the company's AGM, held last May. The French had voted down a bonus scheme devised by Mid Kent for senior executives. The allega-tions persuaded the DTI to extend the MMC probe from September to December. In his statement yesterday,

Mr Lang backed the advice of the water regulator, Ian Byatt, that the takeover would not solve Kene's severe water problems. Saur and General Utilities, which is part of the vast Compagnie Generale des Eaux group, had wanted to construct a mini water grid across the region. They had complained that Mid Kent had the area's only reservoir, which it jointly owns with Southern Water.

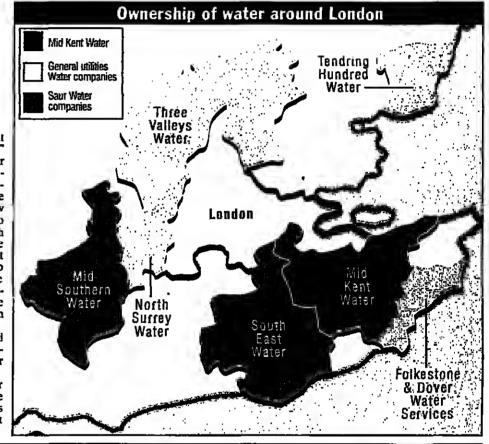
However Mr Byatt said there could be no solution to the difficulties in a county which has as little rainfall as parts of Africa unless Southern Water, the region's water and sewerage company, was included. He said yesterday: "Now that the merger has been blocked it is

closely with the Environment

Agency, can sort this issue out." The findings also hacked Mr Byatt's opinion that water company takeovers could prejudice his ability to make efficiency comparisons, a view which set Ofwat against the two takeover bids last year for South West Water. Mr Byatt said he was pleased the Government had endorsed this belief: "No remedy would outweigh the loss to the regulator of a com-parator and the reduction in the potential for competition in the area.

However Mr Lang stopped short of asking Saur and Gen-eral Utilities to reduce their stakes in Mid Kent.

Last night a spokeswoman for the two bidders said: "In the great scheme of thiogs this was a small deal for the French. It



Millwall FC's parent collapses

The wave of euphoria over publicly quoted fontball received a harsh dose of reality yesterday when Millwall Holdings, the parent company of the second division team, moved to protect itself from creditors by affect Newcastle United's calling in administrators.

The decision came late in a fraught day for the south London club during which dealings in Millwall shares were suspended on the stock market all roses for everyone." pending further details about the club's financial position. Millwall's shares were suspended at 4p, valuing the club

Chris Godsmark

Nissan, the Japanese car giant,

yesterday reversed predictions of losses from its UK operations

as the company confirmed plans

to huild a third model range at

its Sunderland factory by the

create 800 new jobs at Sunder-

land, along with an estimated

2,700 further jobs in UK com-

ditional jobs on the Continent. Nissan said its British sub-

a small profit for last year, con-

founding management's previ-

lines for the replacement for the

duly pessimistic. Production

was better than expected last

year so we can take a more pos-itive outlook." The official fig-

ures will be revealed in May.

starkly opposing fortunes of

UK car producers, as Ford pro-

ceeds with plans to slash 1,300

jobs at Halewood on Mersey-

side. Ford's share of the British

market slumped below 20 per

The news reinforces the

The investment is likely to

turn of the millennium.

cluh's broker, Townsley & Co. will launch a rescue rights issue to raise around £6m to refinance the club. Full details will be revealed later today.

how the Miliwall collapse might £200m flotation planned for later this year. One broker said: "I don't think it's fair to tar everyone with the same brush. But it does show that it is not

Millwall's problems centre on the club's high costs which include a large playing squad. Peter Mead, chairman, said the

ing operations, hit by buge overcapacity, slid further into

The decision by Nissan's

Japanese management to build

the new car in Sunderland came

after years spent deliberating about the costs of rival plants across its worldwide empire.

Only last summer Ian Gibson,

chief executive of Nissan GB,

had said he personally did not

believe the car, a replacement

The change of heart came be-

ciency strides at Sunderland,

which have raised productivity

to make a Primera and just 8.5

hours to huild a Micra, putting

"We must recognise that it is

through the efficiency and pro-

ductivity of the workers there

that we have heen able to

demonstrate levels of efficien-

cy that are amongst the best in

the gradual revival in the Eu-

ropean car market. Last year the

Sunderland site made 231,000

Micras and Primeras, higher

Another consideration was

the world," said Mr Gibson.

would be made in the UK.

Nissan in profit

as new UK car

is confirmed

ponents suppliers and 1,300 ad- for the Escort sized Almera,

sidiary was now likely to declare cause of recent dramatic effi-

ous forecast of losses due to the by 10 per cent each year since

cost of re-tooling production 1993. Sunderland takes 10 hours

A Nissan spokesman said: the plant at the very top of the

That prediction now looks un- productivity league in the UK.

the red.

means. "For years now we have been gearing up for Premier League fontball. On a number of occasions we bave come close, but failed. Sadly, we were City sources were uncertain relegated last year but we are still being run as a Premier

League club with all the costs that involves. "We have decided to refinance once and for all, to allow us to carry on and avoid selling our best players which was be-

coming debilitating."
In November, Millwall reported full-year operating losses of £3.4m while turnover was

by football clubs, a flotation is not the panacea to all financial problems. One source close to Millwall

said yesterday. "If you're in the Premier League then you get a lot of money from TV and other sources. But if you get relegated the money is not so good." Millwall went public in 1989,

one of the first football chibs to seek a listing. In recent years there has been a flurry of new listings including Chelsea, Sunderland and Leeds United, which is part of the Caspian also down. Millwall's problems Group.

Nigel Cope at £14m. It is now likely that the club had been living beyond its show that in spite of the stam-

 Nynex Cable Comms, one of the UK's largest cable telephone and television companies, reported a fall in annual losses to £63.1m last year from £72.1m in 1995. The reduction came after total revenue surged by 78 per cent to £151m. Residential phone lines grew by 50 per cent, to 350,000, while cable television customers increased by 36 per cent to 268,519. Nynex said it had invested £2.2bn in its UK network so far, with £1hn still to he spent.

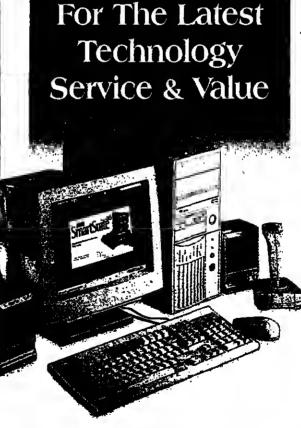
John Killian, chief executive, refused to be drawn on specula-tion about delays to the forthcoming £5bo merger with Cable & Wireless's Mercury subsidiary, Bell Cablemedia, and the UK op-erations of Videotron. He said the deal was still on course to be completed in the spring. He confirmed be was not a candidate for the post of chief executive of the new company, C&W Communications, and said he would return to work for the parent company, the US Nynex Corporation, after the merger.

• Seven senior corporate financiers, including two directors, lost their jobs at NatWest Markets' corporate finance department, a result of the acquisition last year of the corporate finance boutique Hamhro Magan. The joh losses followed a year-end performance review of the 140 combined corporate finance staff, a NatWest spokeswoman said. "There are no more departures in the pipeline," she said. She refused to give the names of those sacked or say how much compensation was involved.

 Business sentiment declined in Germany last month, according to the authoritative Ifo survey. It was the second month running that the index had fallen, reflecting an unexpected loss of momeotum in the recovery that started last summer. The fall, from 97.3 in October to 96.9 in November and 95.8 last month, in one of the most reliable indicators of the economy fuelled hopes that the Bundesbank would reduce interest rates, although the majority opinion among economists is that rates will stay on hold.

• Share prices in sports goods retailers were unsettled yester-day after the Office of Fair Trading launched a campaign to expose price-fixing by suppliers of sports clothes and equipment. Blacks Leisure's shares dropped 7.5p to 382.5p, while IJB Sports eased 4p to 284p, and ID Sports, which is due to report results today, closed 16.5p lower at 325p. The OFT said it had received a stream of complaints from sports goods retailers who had been prevented from discounting by manufacturers and distributors insisting that goods must not be sold below a minimum price.

• Rugby Group has acquired the loss-making joinery manufacturer Boulton and Paul (Holdings) from a consortium led by Schroder Ventures for £15.5m with deferred consideration of up to £34.5m dependent on future profits of the combined joinery businesses of B&P and Rugby's own operation, John Carr.



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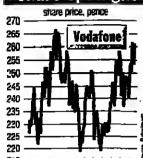
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4570.1 - 10.1 FTSE 350 2081.6 - 0.4 **SEAQ VOLUME** 873.9m shares, 49,018 bargains Gilts Index

Share spotlight

94.75 - 0.28



The Storehouse retailing group, taking in such chains as BhS and Mothercare, seems unable to avoid the bearish embrace of Barclays de Zoete Wedd. The investment house's highly rated retail analysts, Charles Nichols and Tony

Shiret, are again advising their

followers to dump the shares. Their sell advice follows what appeared to be a reasonable festive trading statement. The analysts doubt whether in the first 40 weeks of the current year " there is more than a marginal gain in group like-for-like sales, a poor outcome by industry stan-

They have, consequently, reduced their estimate for this year's profits by £5m to £120m. Last year Storehouse produced £108.7m. For next year BZW is looking for £136m.

The group's shares, riding at 361, in May, bave since been ragged retreat. They

touched a 248p low last month, reflecting earlier negative comment from BZW, but appeared to have gamed some strength from a Christmas trading statement and were holding at 275p

before the latest BZW hit cut the price to 272p. The rest of the stock market, after spending most of the session fretting about what Alan Greenspan planned to

say, produced a buge sigh of re-lief when the US banking chief adopted a fairly neutral stance. Last month he said share markets were overheating. His cautionary words had little impact and he had been expected to return to the cool-it-

At one time Footsie was down 26.4 points. By the close it had rallied to show a modest gain, up 1.5 points at 4,195.5. Higher interest rate worries, however, are never far below the surface and Bank of

MARKET REPORT DEREK PAIN

BZW bears leave Storehouse firmly on the shelf

stock market reporter of the year

George's latest call for an increase to ensure inflation targets are met was an inhibiting influence.

The market had enjoyed much of its recent success on the back of high-flying banks and financials. There are, some fear, early signs their heady could indicate the bull market is running out of steam.

In the main the bankers more than held their own which gave a little extra mo-

Football clubs, for so long hitting new highs, were among the more somnolent shares, re-England Governor Eddie flecting the problems of second

division Millwall, suspended at 4p and in administration. Manchester Utd, Southampton, Sunderland and Tottenham

Hotspur shivered a few coppers Sports retailers, another boom area, also suffered a relapse after the Office of Fair Trading said it was campaigning against alleged resale price maintenance in the supply of

dipped 7.5p to 382.5p and J David Sports 16.5p to 325p. Vodafone was the best-performing blue chip. The shares rose 7.5p to 261p after the mobile telephone group produced figures showing a sbarp cus-

tomer increase. It said its over-

sports goods. Blacks Leisure

seas subscribers had topped 1 million, giving it more than 3.8 million - with 25 per cent added since the start of last year. Orange also dialled the right number, gaining 4p to 197.5p following a HSBC

James Capel buy signal. BTR put on 6p to 256p on bottom fishing and Rolls-Royce continued to draw inspiration from hopes of a German deal over its Parsons turbine operation, rising 2.5p

Racal Electronics, up 6p to 251p. enjoyed a Crédit Lyon-nais Laing push but Shell shrugged off a UBS downgrading, climbing 5p to 1,036.5p.

Dorling Kindersley's fall from grace continued with the market fearing more bad news. The price of the CD Rom group fell 29.5p to 375.5p, its lowest for nearly two years.
It has already warned that

weak US markets and sterling's

strength were taking their toll. There are fears last month's sales were unspectacular. Thorn's sad decline contin-

ued with a 9.5p fall to 199.5p and Somerfield, the supermarket chain, fell 5.5p to 168.5p. although figures were in line with estimates. Life Sciences, following the

£236m US lakeover bid,

gained 41.5p to 134p but water group Mid Kent Holdings, after the Whitehall block on the controversial French strike, sank 62.5p to 572.5p. The 600 Group, a machine

tool maker, produced the day's profit warning, falling 55p to 144.5p as a result. Jarvis, the construction

group which has moved into railway maintenance rose 6p to a 160p, a peak. Talk of bids and deals are never far from the company, up from 17.75p a year ago. Monday's big trade in Ronson (22.5p) turned out to be a hed and breakfast deal.

ge of the share price. The price

Taking Stock

some

Littlewoods, the pools and retailing group for so long thought to be lining np a dea with Lanica Trust, has set its sights on struggling Jacques Vert. It is taking a 29.9 per cent stake and intends to develop a new mail order catalogue with the fashion

group. Littlewoods, which has agreed a £395m deal for the Freemans business, is paying £2.7m or 30p a share. Jacques Vert shares, down to 28.5p in November, jumped 21p to 53.5p.

Radio First held at 8p on Ofex. It is paying £225,000 down and £500,000 later for three radio stations at Peterborough, Northampton and Cheltenham. The seller is GWR. Other deals are on Radio First's wavelength. The company owns the growing Mellow Radio, expected to break even this year.

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life Scien

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It is hardly surprising that Somerfield laid low for almost six months after what

proved in be one of the most fraught

new issues of recent times. David Si-

mons and his fellow directors probably

limped back to their Bristol head-

quarters severely bruised after their ex-

The cut price float was such a deback

that it made it all the more crucial that

the company did not disappoint with yes-terday's maiden set of results as a pub-

were in line with expectations and the

that represents a fall in real terms.

The problem is that though man-

were 4.3 per cent ahead, it is still be-

performing tail of old Gateway stores

and the Food Giant discount format.

Dig beneath the surface and other problems emerge. Though the con-

version of Gateway shops to the Somerfield format yields double digit

sales gains in the short term, they soon

evaporate. David Simons admitted

yesterday that in some of the original

Somerfield conversions sales have

started to go into reverse. For a com-

pany that is hoping to drive profits

through higher sales that looks ex-

Sales are falling off a cliff in both

gan "delivering the goods".

still look poor.

perience, if several million richer.

business

Taking Stock

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Littlewoods, the pools and retailing group for so long thought to be living up a deal with Lanka Trust, has set its sights on struggling Jacques Vert. It is taking a 29.9 per cent stake and intends to develop a new mail order catalogue with the fashion

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tremely worrying.

To be fair to Somerfield, it is doing some of the right things. It is moving towards higher margin fresh foods and its Europartners huying consortium is

helping keep costs lower.
Mr Simons is talking about home shopping trials and financial services but the fact is that rivals such as Tesco and Sainsbury are further ahead, have stronger brands and more funds. Somerfield is always going to be running to catch up.

Shareholders who were bold enough to apply for Somerfield shares last summer eventually got a very good deal at 145p. Though the shares dipped 5.5p to 168.5p yesterday, investors are still looking at a near 10 per cent gain. But that was the easy part. Further advances will be harder to achieve.

Brokers were shading down their full year profit forecasts yesterday to £100m

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN shares, once they had rocketed from the 4p at which the market had severe doubts about the company's future,

Somerfield still has problems

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

Somerfield: At a glance

Market value: £597m, share price 168.5p

this year and £105m next. This puts them on a forward rating of just 7. Braver souls may want tn follow fund managers like PDFM and hold on for the lung, long term. But it will be a stressful experience. Others should sell.

lie company. Mr Simons even started his presentation with a slide showing the slo-Shandwick This was only partly the case. Though half-year profits of £54.6m slow to grow

margin increase to 3.4 per cent was also Public relations companies do not good news, the longer term prospects have a particularly impressive record on the stock market and there is a plau-The most worrying sign is the group's sible line of argument that they should not be publicly quoted at all. There is like-for-like sales performance, where sales in the six months to November a good reason for that - when a busiwere just 1.7 per cent ahead of the same ness's assets go up and down in the lift period last year. With food price inevery day, the quality of carnings they generate is necessarily extremely volatile. Add in the fact that the comflation running at just over 2 per cent, panies tend to be small, dependent on agement tries to focus attention on the one country's economy and vulnerable core Somerfield format, where sales to cuts in discretionary spending and it is a wonder that so many have tried ing dragged hack by the undertheir luck on the stock market.

The volatility of the sector has been no better exemplified than by Shandwick, as dependent as any of its peers on keeping hold of temperamental, ex-

Earnings per share (peoce) 6.4

Group Somerfield Food Gateway

Five year record

Dividends per share (pence)

Like for like sales (%)

Pre-tax profits (£m)

pensive staff. In most other regards, it looks dangerously like a proper company, albeit a pretty dull one.

Profits for the 12 months to Octoher, announced yesterday, showed record revenues of £122.3m which resulted in a 20 per cent jump in pre-tax profits to £9.2m. Earnings per share were a slightly better-than-expected

4.9p, allowing the dividend to be lifted 10 per cent to 1.43p for the year. The main difference between Shandwick and many of its rivals is that it genuinely has a global business, which means it can offer a world-wide communications service to clients. For clients such as Digital and MasterCard, that central control of their international image is very attractive.

Elsewhere, Shandwick's interactive arm, which designs, maintains and markets Web-based communications on the Internet, looks well placed to benefit from the rush by companies to create a presence on the information superhighway.

The trouble with Shandwick is that

all this carefully packaged good news is slow to show through. Earnings per share have bounced between 4p and 6p

1996

43.0

Aug Sep Oct Noy Dec Jan

_ half year _

-17

102 - 180

1997

1996

91.8

Share price

have done little in the past three years.

At 55p, up 3p yesterday, the shares trade on an undemanding price/earn-ings ratio of 11. If growth continues at the current level the shares look reasonably attractive, but given the in-herent instability of the business, they are not worth chasing much higher,

More shocks from 600 Group

The 600 Group is a salutary lesson in the need to read between the lines of even apparently positive comments from companies. As recently as November the machine tool maker put out a statement saving: "The UK market has been fairly quiet since the summer but inquiry rates are increasing and we anticipate continued growth during the second half of this financial year and into next." Yesterday a profit warning sent the shares into free fall.

Having peaked at 300p early last summer the shares have been in retreat ever since, proving that the market is often a better guide to a company's fortunes than its own assessment of events. Yesterday's 55p fall to 144.5p represented a 28 per cent slump. It has been some roller-coaster ride - at the beginning of 1994 the shares could have been picked up for 30p.

As ever on the day of a profits warning it is hard to know if the market has over-reacted but given the disparity between the company's growing confi-dence in November and yesterday's admission that summer weakness "continued during the last quarter of 1996", the market was probably right to be cautious. Analysts took the warning badly yesterday, slashing their forecasts from an average of just over £14m to about £11m for the year to March with £12.3m pencilled in for the following 12 months.

What is puzzling about yesterday's share price fall is that it seems out of all proportion to the scale of the company's problems. Destocking is holding back sales of the company's lathes but profits, while lower than expectations, are still expected to match last year's result. Demand at home is sel to improve, 600 said yesterday, and the group's market share should continue to rise in the US and rest of the world.

On the hasis of forecast profits, the shares trade on a prospective priceearnings ratio of 10 in the year to March. That is about right until the

Amsterdam, home of windmills and gerberas

Here's a marketing wheeze which will appeal to horticulluralists everywhere. Invest On-line, the phone-based investment operation launched last year by Royal Sun Alliance, has named all its five products after flowers.

Thus we have Lotus, Carnation, Azalea, Rose and Daisy. Now the company is launching the Gerbera PEP. Gerberas, for the uninitiated, look like large orange daisies. It was a toss-up between

gerberas and tulips, says an On-line spokesman, but the tulip chosen for the photo shoot looked like a boiled egg on a stick. Judith Marsh, head of the

company, had to fly to Amsterdam for the shoot because they couldn't find enough gerberas in one place over here, I'm told. What japes.

Stuart Wallis, chief executive of Fisons until its acquisition by Rhooe-Poulenc Rorer 18 months ago, has been appointed chairman of Euramax International, the aluminium and steel coil maker. Mr Wallis was poached from Bowater to run Fisons around and when he succeeded he made his name. He also has a finger in several other pies as chairman of Scholl, Yorkshire Chemicals, Sheffield Forgemasters and LLP.

Good to hear that Terry Venables, whose abilities as manager of the England football team are sadly unmatched by his husiness acumen, has done a deal Hay & Robertson, which has made a fortune making replica footie kits for the soccer-loving masses, has signed up the coach to the Australian side for a six-anda-half-year contract to develop a "premium range of products" in conjunction with the Admiral brand.

The El Tel hrand will hit the stores this autumn. Who knows, you could soon be wearing Hay & Robertson's El Tel pyjamas and boxer shorts. A chilling thought.

The City is Eurosceptic - it's official. In the annual City

PEOPLE & BUSINESS



Jetsetter: Judith Marsh flew to Amsterdam for the photo

Debate at Mansion House on Monday, hosted by the Futures and Options Association, around 250 members of the City voted heavily against EMU. In fact there were three motions, the first being: This House believes there is a powerful economic and

wards economic and monetary union." Despite powerful Europhile speeches from Peter Sutherland, chairman of Goldman Sachs and a former European Commissioner, and Jan Timmer, president of Philips Electronics, 58 per cent of those present voted

business case underpinning

the political momentum to-

cent didn't know. But the Eurosceptic speakers, Tim Melville Ross, director general of the Institute of Directors, and Anatole Kaletsky, economic editor of The Times, didn't have it all their own way.

against the motion. Only 38

per cent agreed while 4 per

The second motion was: "Do you think the UK will ever join a single currency?" This time 65 per cent voted yes and 32 per cent no. Most worrying for fans of Europe, however, was the last motion: "If we don't join a single currency and we are penalised by the EU for not doing so, would you be in favour of leaving the EU?"

Fully 48 per cent said yes. 41 per cent said no with 11 per ceni don'i knows. Perhaps we could link up with the Cayman Islands.

British explorer is not dead. Former Warburg spokesman Richard Holloway, now with the Maitland Consultancy, had rather a more dramatic visit to Milan last weekend than he bargained fnr.

He was flown in on Sunday to help give a gloss to Olivetti's announcement that it was selling its computer opera-

However on his arrival Mr Holloway was told that the airport was surrounded by striking farmers. Undeterred, our hero walked one-and-ahalf miles down a deserted motorway through blockades in the rain. "There was quite a party atmosphere," he says.

Thank you to David Wallace of Portfolio & Pension Management, East Kilbride, who writes to me with a list of fund managers for Henderson Investors: these include James Bond and a Mr A Crooke, "Are these appropriate names for fund managers?" asks Mr Wallace. 1 leave you, dear reader, to

John Willcock

succumbs to £236m offer

Magnus Grimond

Life Sciences International vesterday succumbed to a £236m agreed offer from Thermo Instrument Systems of the US, which claims to be the world's biggest analytical instruments group.

News of the 135p-a-share cash offer sent shares in the London-hased scientific instruments group chaired by Sir Christopher Bland soaring 41.5p to 134p. The terms of the offer will allow shareholders to keep a 3p-a-share second in- a cash offer at 50 per cent over terim dividend the group said it planned to declare for last

The takeover is the second UK purchase in less than a year for Thermo, which bought Fisons' scientific instruments business in a £154m deal last March. It also comes less than 12 months into a revival plan instituted at Life Sciences by Riccardo Pigliucci, the American chief executive who joined from US scientific instruments group Perkin-Elmer last March with a brief to turn the group round. If the takeover goes through,

it will end four years during which Life Sciences' shares have slumped from a peak of 179p in Fehruary 1993. After growing strongly in the late 1980s and early 1990s, the group ran into problems two years ago ranging from a dis-appointing acquisition to holdups with the US medical budget and disruption caused by consolidation amongst the hig drugs groups which represent its main customers.

In September, Mr Pigliucci announced a plan to split the supplies, handling equipment group into four businesses, and clinical instrumentation to which Thermo revealed yester- its existing strength in analytiday would result in a £7m ex- cal instruments.

ceptional charge in the 1996 fig-ures. Partially offset by a £3.7m gain from closing out certain foreign exchange contracts, this would leave profits at £23.7m for 1996, the company estimated, below the record £28.5m declared for 1994, but in line with analysts' forecasts.

Mr Pigliucci described the Thermo offer as a good one. "Our major brief was to increase shareholder value, however that our share price, you have to He estimated that the com-

pany would have had to raise the share price to around 170n to 180p over two years to arrive at an equivalent value to the bid, even before taking account of the risk that the restructuring or the markets might turn sour.

Mr Pighucci and five other executive directors of Life Sciences have agreed terms to stay on with the group for six months if the Thermo takeover goes through. Although he said he saw no reason to depart, if he decided to leave Mr Piglincci stands to pick up a severance package comprising a pay-off in the region of \$940,000 and option profits of around £130,000.

Thermo Instrument, capitalised at around \$3.2bn on the American Stock Exchange, is the largest part of Thermo Electron Corporation, which manufactures a wide range of medical, paper making, energy and industrial equipment.

The company said Life Sciences would add laboratory

	Compa		y Results		
	Ternover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend	
Barbour Index (I)	7.25m (6.59m)	1,9 0 m (1.57m)	7.5p (6.2p)	3.15p (3.0p)	
Daltron Electronics (F)	28.6m (18.5m)	2.27m (1.25m)	11.7p (6.5p)	-(-)	
Flatcher King (I)	2.13m (2.31m)	72,000 (49,000)	0.5p (0.3p)	0.5p (D.5p)	
Strangwick (F)	181m (167.6m)	9.2m (2.5m)	5.5p (1.7p)	1.43p (1.3p)	
Samerlield (I)	1.71bn (1.68bn)	54.6ra (43m)	13p (10.2p)	3.4p (-)	
Starrey Free Inns (I)	6.89m (5.79m)	1.04m (0.6m)	8.7p (6p)	1.25p (1p)	
(F) - Finel (I) - Interim	(N) - Mine months				

Life Sciences | Cheer at Surrey Free Inns as profits leap

sparkling performance on the Alternative Investment Marslipped 7.5p to 422.5p on profit-taking yesterday but the shares have still risen more than six-fold in 18 months from

ket since the middle of 1995 compared with £600,000 in the with a 72 per cent jump in pre-tax profits in the half-year to November. The creator of the crease io sales to £6.9m. Earn-Litten Tree chain of puhs

said: "We bave had an excellent scheme investment, was pilot-start to the year, demand at all ing a hranded cafe concept to by some Surrey shareholders changed so that a room used for drinking coffee in the morning Surrey Free Inns justified its pectations and our develop-sparkling performance on the ment programme is on track." Pre-tax profits of £1.04m

ings per share increased by 45 per cent to 8.7p and the interim divideod rose 25 per cent to 1.25p. Mr Hill said Surrey Free

Inns, which started life 10 years Tony Hill, managing director, ago as a property-based BES

side the Litten Tree pubs. He said running out a second hrand would allow the company to double its exposure in fashionable areas such as Chelsea and Fulham, where the market could not sustain two of its

large-scale pubs.

A move up from AIM to the main market is planned for this year to distance the company from a market which has underperformed the main mar-

ket in recent months.

The Litten Tree pubs, de-

scribed as a cross between JD Wetherspoon and Yates Wine Lodges, have succeeded in generating high returns on capital employed by segregating its aircraft hangar-sized outlets into different areas to cater for drinking, eating, watching tele-vision and husiness meetings at different times of the day.

for a younger crowd in the evening. By constantly shifting activities in the pub, Surrey aims to maximise the number of customers passing through a fairly fixed-cost base.

According to Mr Hill, trading continues strong at both outlets and the new sites opened over the past year. He said Surrey was well on

might become a dancing venue

the way to achieving its target Throughout the day the of at least eight new developatmosphere and lighting are ments during 1997.

Triplex ups the ante with £72.6m Cook bid

Magnus Grimond

Triplex Lloyd yesterday sharply upped the ante in its hitter battle for rival Midlands castings group William Cook by raising its bid by more than 25 per cent to £72.6m and declaring its offer final.

The higher offer was imme-diately rejected by Cook and drew a mixed reaction from the stock market, with one hig shareholder saying it was "not obviously a knock-out".

Triplex shares dropped 11p to 192.5p, while William Cook's gained 5p to 380p. At that level, Cook's shares still remain 9p below the new hid terms of 21 new shares plus £37.40 in cash for every 20 in Cook. There is a cash alternative of 383.4p a

Colin Cooke, the Triplex chairman, said they had decided to raise the offer in line with

Cook's original profit forecast of £10.7m for the current year to March, increased over the shares and saying there is no fuweekend to £11m. The group has also raised its forecast savings from £1.5m to £2.5m.
The new hid represented an

exit price-earnings ratio of 10.8, which is exactly the same as the original terms - reasonable, [but] not over the top", Mr Cooke claimed. They had looked at the fore-

cast and it "appears sensible", he said. The difference be-tween analysts' expectations of around £8m at the time the original offer was made in November and the current forecast related to an appareot reversal of the fall in order books revealed at the interim stage and the decision to cut refurhishment costs in the secood half. But he hit out at claims by

Andrew Cook, the William

Cook chairman, that the oew

ture for the company, oow we are seeing sunshine in the air and daffodils in the garden...it is time shareholders got some fair treatment from Mr Cook."

The Cook chairman said the new offer "may no longer be hi-dicrously low; but it remains manifestly low." He claimed it was worth 10.5 times forecast earnings, a 31 per cent discount to the market, or 8.7 times if £2.2m of refurhishment costs were added back to the £11m forecast. One of William Cook's hig in-

stitutional shareholders last night lent support to that argument, saying:
"Superficially [the new hid]

doesn't look all that impressive. There will be a lot of shouting to come, but it's not obviously



Britannia closes its doors on carpetbaggers

yesterday forced to close its doors to speculators after being hit by a tenfold increase of new account openings from carpet-baggers hoping to get free Louising Spitannia chief executive, said: "This is not on sbares if it converts to a bank.

stant access account, which requires a minimum balance of £500, to new customers after more than 7,000 people clamoured to become members. signs that the Building Societies could make Other accounts with a higher Bill, long touted as offering Commons.

opening deposit are still open. protection to mutuals from the A spokesman added that unwelcome attention of con-Britannia had been forced to act Britannia Building Society was after queues began to form at all of its branches in the wake of reports suggesting that its demutualisation was imminent.

the agenda and there are no fast The society said it had de-hucks to be made from Britancided to close temporarily its in- nia. We have said repeatedly, Britannia will not convert and there is no windfall in prospect."

verting societies, including Halifax, Woolwich, Northern Rock and the Alliance & Leicesstatute book after all.

from takeover against former societies which themselves move The oew windfall frenzy to grip the Britannia came amid

ter, may not make it on to the Angela Knight, Treasury Minister, is hoping to find parliamentary time for the Bill, which removes a five-year protection

against other financial targets. A Treasury spokeswoman said it was still boped the Bill could make its way through the

likelihood of an early general election may lead to it being lost. Despite the likely failure of the Building Societies Bill to succeed, evidence mounted of the continuing resilience of societies. Figures from the Building Societies' Association showed its members lent £13bn last year, 48

However, it is believed that un-

By contrast, lending by memhers of the British Bankers' Association was up just 5 per cent the first time of National & 0.6 per cent on some accounts.

per cent more than in 1995.

Provincial, taken over by Abbey less time is given to the Bill in the
next few weeks, the increasing lending within the banking sector by Cheltenham & Gloucester.

Rob Thomas, analyst at UBS, the Swiss banking group, said: "The building societies have succeeded in pushing their share of lending up from 60 to 70 per cent in the past year ... those loyal to mutuality have been the most competitive."

Mr Thomas pointed to the mounting competition between banks and mutuals for the decision yesterday by Abbey National on 1995 despite the addition for to raise its savings rates by up to

Gulf turns up heat in Clyde battle

Tom Stevenson

The war of words between Gulf Canada and its British target Clyde Petroleum intensified yesterday as Gulf launched a searing attack on Clyde's two recent defence documents.

Warning that it had never be-fore increased an offer in a bid situation, Gulf unsettled the market in Clyde shares which from the outset of the hostile takeover attempt have traded above the value of the 105p, £432m offer.

Clyde's shares closed yester-day 2.5p lower at 120.5p after Gulf chief executive JP Bryan said the defence "represented a desperate attempt to obscure reality with irrelevant facts and spurious valuation methodolo-

At that level, the shares are still ahead of the cash offer price, but well below the 160p air value the target's latest de fence circular suggested for its shares.

Roy Franklin, chief executive of Clyde, responded in kind. This is predictable rhetoric. Gulf's imaginative use of numbers and timings is a complete irrelevance. Nothing in this document undermines our case. The success of our strategy is self-evident."

Gulf's latest attack focused on the long-term track record of Clyde. During the six years prior to its offer, Gulf said, Clyde's market value had diminished by £149m, its share price had fallen by 45 per cent in the same period and it had failed to pay a dividend in four out of the last 10 years.

Clyde responded that it had been a recovery play since 1993 and questioned the validity of drawing attention to its performance before that time, which coincided with the appointment of Roy Franklin as

chief executive. Gulf also ridiculed Clyde's attempt to focus on a multiple of cash flow as the most appropriate valuation method for an oil company rather than net

assel value. Clyde has until next Tuesday to complete its defence and Gulf another week to finalise its NEW FACES FOR '97: While her horses romp to success a young trainer is running up an enviable strike-rate. Greg Wood reports

Williams on a roll with happy horses

Venetia Williams has an exer- ment, however, the early days last time that men were men cise book in which she details the performance of every horse she runs, with winners entered in red felt-tip and the losers in black biro. Not far away on her desktop is a shop-ping list, and one of the items on it says a great deal about her I also came up with quite a few first full season as a trainer: new red peo.

Indeed, it is a little surprising that the old one has lasted 50 long, since for several months, winners have been emerging from Williams's yard as dependably as cars off a production line. To date this season she has saddled 19 winnersfrom 48 runners, giving a strikerate of 40 per cent which even the likes of Martin Pipe (27 per cent) and Kim Bailey (22 per cent) can only dream about. Ignore the summer jumping campaign, meanwhile, and the total since early September is 19 winners and 22 losers (13 of which made the frame).

After barely a year with a licence, there is a head peering over the door of every one of Williams's 40 boxes. For most trainers at a similar stage of their careers, the higgest problem is finding half a dozen horses which run faster than they walk, rather than how to make room for the latest reowners may now ring at any mo- en at Becher's," she says, "the

were more difficult.

You can't just twiddle the sign in the window to "open" because nothing will happen,"
Williams says. "I spent a lot of I chased a lot of red herrings, but people who were new to racing." The first weeks and months near-misses, and Williams was forced to rely on a useful piece of advice. "Someone told me that you must use statistics for your own benefit, and I noticed that of the top 100 yards, we had the second-best placed percentage." This season, of course, the stats speak for themselves.

Delighted though she is by her present success, there is nothing false about the modesty with which Williams discusses her rapid ascent, nor about the definite hint of surprise that she has come so far, so swiftly. After all, wheo she secured her first job in racing, as secretary to Grant Pritchard-Gordon in Newmarket, it was riding, not training, which was her principal interest. But that was until, in the spring of 1987, holding the binoculars suddenly seemed far more attractive than hold-

ing the reins.
"I'd ridden in the Grand Nacruits. While potential new tional two weeks before and fall-

and Becher's was Becher's. They modified it after I'd put a bole in the landing side. I was knocked unconscious but otherwise I was fine. A fortnight lattime going all over the country. er I was in a common-or-garden hurdle at Worcester, on a 33-1 chance, in front coming to the last. And bang. I broke my neck, and I don't recommend it. brought a frustrating series of I was temporarily paralysed, which was a bit worrying, and even though everything was okay in the end, that was the end of the riding."

The fundamentals of training

were learned as an assistant to John Edwards, a near-neighbour, and Nigel Twiston-Davies, until the time seemed right to renovate and extend a stable hlock on land which has been in her family for centuries. Now Williams had the chance to add a personal touch to the routine, and while she denies that there is any secret technique behind her glut of winners, it is difficult to argue with the form

"We try to take a commonsense approach to everything," she says, "and it seems sensible to go with a horse's nature rather than trying to get them to fit my idea of it. For instance, if a horse is in its box for 23 hours in a day and then on the 24th, you go up the gallops and back down again, its circulation by walking around. The first



Well turned out: Williams has made a smart start to her training career while her horses keep their heads down

goes from total stagnation to suddenly roaring around its body, and then cuts off completely again for another 23 hours. Then you wooder why you get joints filling up and so

"So we try to turn most of ours out in the paddocks every afternoon, and they can have

thing they all do is get down and have a roll, then they get their heads down and eat some grass, gently keeping the circulatino going. That's natural too, for horses to have their heads down for a few hours a day, and for

that reason all my horses have their mangers at ground level."
Perhaps it is just the memory of how glorious it once was to be a muddy child, but as the There are heaps of horses which

WOLVERHAMPTON

1.50 Signorque 2.20 Mereen 2.50 Ramsey Hope 3.20 Foot Battalion 3.50 El Nido 4.20 Three

HIMAW ADVANTAGES Mome to high next for of to h.

STALLS: 7 th Indic - Inside; remainder - outside.

■ Fibresand, left-hand, oval course.

■ Course is N of own on A449. Wolverhampton station Jm. ADMISSION: Cabb 115; Public endosore 58 (54 for CAP members of course's Diamond Club - \$2,50 life membership). CAB PARK: Prec.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Balinsky & Palacegate Calef (1.50), Ho Mel Burprise (visored) (1.50), Stabbyr (3.50). WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN HAYS: Foot Battalion (3.20)

woo here on Wednesday.

LONG-DESTANCE MINESES; Bernard Seven (4.20) has been sent
182 miles by M Dods from Piercebridge, Co Durham.

1.50 HADDOCK MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,900 added 6f

- 10 declared BETTING: 5-2 Sloweruge, 7-2 Bean Brass, 4-1 Cindy Kets, 9-2 Mans, 71 Bulinsky, 12-1 Oscillatus Gift, 14-1 Others

2.20 MACKEREL CLAMING STAKES (CLASS F) £4,000 added 7f

- B declared -BETTING: 6-4 Appropri, S-2 Repress, 4-1 Little Sur, 10-1 Lighter Boy, Bog-art, 12-1 Shortstine, 14-1 others

2.50 COD HANDICAP (CLASS D) £4,900 addied

... Anthony Board (7)

GOING: Standard. DRAW ADVANTACE: Middle to high best for 6f to 7f.

horses are led back to their boxes after an afternoon of romping and rolling - "probably the filthiest horses in training", Williams says - they seem to be glowing visions of health and contentment.

"I don't know that I'm doing much right, maybe I'm just not dning much wrong," she says. "I try not to look too far ahead.

have won a bumper in Ireland which are all going to he Gold Cup winners, until they're proved otherwise. It's exactly the same with trainers. People think, second-season trainer, one or two winners, hey chaps, we've spotted one here. Then the horses get stuffed two or three times and suddenly I'll be yesterday's news."

When you have lain paral-

4 2132-02 NAPER STIR (B) (CI) Ms N Macadey 4 9.5 C Tempor (6) 9 V 44021-0- BOLD PRONTIER (33) (CI) K Nory 5.9 _____ C Scaley 10 B 20024-6 PRIMERA BARIN (12) (CD BP) 0 Nérole 7 9.3 . Nex Greanes 4 B 45300- EURIT PEPHOE (100) 0 Norbos 4 B 11_lone Wands (7) 1 0 002-30 BOFF (11) (CD) B Raugh 4 B 7 ____ R Perham 11 10 002-35 GE LA HERR (15) (CD) Norbos 4 B 11_lone Wands (7) 1 0002-35 GE LA HERR (15) (CD) Maryn Medde 4 B 5 ____ N Adams 12 13 30000- REPRYHOLME (25) (CD) P Felger 4 8 2 ___ Branchill (7) 7 12 330000- REPRYHOLME (25) (CD) P Felger 4 8 2 ___ Branchill (7) 7 12 30000- REPRYHOLME (25) (CD) P Felger 5 7 10 _____ F Norton 3 ____ 15 declared -___ 15 declared -____ F Norton 3

— 15 declared — 14 Marinum weight: 7sr 10h. True mandicap weight: Belinda Blue 7st 4th. BETTHIC: 9-2 Sotonbar, 5-1 Napier Shre, 6-1 Chadwell Hall, 7-1 Cherocest, 8-1 Ramsey Hope, 10-1 Squire Corrie, 12-1 others

3.20 TROUT HANDICAP (CLASS C) £7,325

| 32502-1 POOT BATTALION (7) (C) R Hollering 9 8 (Se) F Lynch (8) 3 2012-1 BATTALION (7) (C) R Hollering 9 7 ____ AM Wighten 4 V 3 05331-4 MOMERIE MR MCCREMY (7) (C BIT) E Aston 9 4 ___ A Calimon 2 4 42-2 SEBERRY (14) (BIT) P Hesian 8 11 _____ J Shrows 2 5 135542 PMAN FOR PROFIT (11) IN JURISTON 8 11 ____ J Wenter 1 6 A52144 TIME CAN TELL (78) (B) C Morroy 8 4 _____ Beneriti (7) 7 1A01-33 ENCHANTING EVE (7) (C) C Alen 8 4 _____ Beneriti (7) 8 051143 FELLO DOLLY (15) (CI) N Burks 8 3 _____ J Beneriti (7) 8 051143 FELLO DOLLY (15) (CI) N Burks 8 3 _____ Beneriti (7) 8 051143 FELLO DOLLY (15) (CI) N Burks 8 3 _____ Beneriti (7) 8 051143 FELLO DOLLY (15) (CI) N Burks 8 3 _____ Beneriti (7) 8 051143 FELLO DOLLY (15) (CI) R Burks 10 _____ Beneriting Eve, 6-1 Selberry, 7-1 Homoro Mr Mocayly, 8-1 Plan For Profit, 12-2 others

3.50 BREAM SELLING STAKES (CLASS F)

BEITING: 2-1 Peterskie, 3-1 B Mide. 9-2 Pereises Bod, 8-1 Shakiyr, 10-1 Wadada, Sherthacock, 14-1 others

4.20 SALMON HANDICAP (CLASS D) £4,900 added 1m 1f 79yds

added 3YO 1m 100yds

ysed on the downside of the last flight at Worcester, such caution over long-term predictions is understandable. If Williams herself is unsure how long her winning streak will last, however, her horses offer compelling evidence. The filthiest in training they may be, but few who saw them would deny that they are probably the happens I

Hill no obstacle to Man

Coome Hill is likely to duck a confrontation with One Man at Cheltenham on Saturday, His trainer, the permit-holder Walter Dennis, is concerned that a good performance from Coome Hill in the Pillar Chase will ruin his handicap mark and he is now contemplating a switch to Sandown's Agfa Diamond Chase the following weekend. "If we were to run well against One Man he could end

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Lively Encounter (Lingfield 1.40) NB: Eastern River (Lingfield 3.40)

up with lumps more weight in the future and that probably isn't a good idea," Dennis said. The prevailing ground conditions are also against the Hennessy Gold Cup winner tackling Saturday's contest.

There doesn't seem to he

much rain about, so it looks like

the ground wouldn't be suitable

anyway." Dennis said. With Coome Hill a probable absentee. Onc Man is unlikely to face a severe test on Saturday. But one interesting rival is Challeoger Du Luc who, along with Glen Mirage, was put in the race when it was reopened yeslerday. The Martin Pipe-trained horse is also second favourite for the Ladhroke Trophy Handican Chase oo the same card.

Sanmartino uninspiring

Sanmartino extended his unbeaten run to two over timber at Leicester yesterday - but left a question mark over his Champion Hurdle credentials. William Hill left his price unchanged at 10-1 but Ladbrokes pushed him out to 16-I (from 8-1) and Coral to 12-1 (from 8-1).

The 1995 Ebor winner was pitted against the 1994 St Leger victor. Moonax, in an ordinary novices' hurdle, but the race did not turn out to be a straight fight hetween the two. Sanmartino swept to the front at the last but had to be kept up to his work by Adrian Maguire to hold High In The Clouds by one and a half lengths. Moonax was a further four lengths away in third.

Coral's representative, Roh Hartnett, said: "Sanmartinn has impressed me as a novice. hut I think he looks a horse who needs things to go his own way and he won't get that in the Champion Hurdle."

A THE PERSON

Yesterday's results, page 25 * THE INDEPENDENT RACING SERVICES 0891 261 LINGFIELD SEDCEFIELD 982 WOLVERHAMPTON 983 0891 261 970

LINGFIELD

1.10 Quini Eagle 1.40 Lively Encounter 2.10 Rose Of Glenn

3.10 Theme Arena 3.40 OATS N BARLEY (nap) 2.40 Amber Spark

GOING: Good (Good in Soft in places).

Left-hand, undulating course with suff (ences,
Course is south-east of town on BCCCR, Lingfield station (served by London Victoria)
adjoins course. ADMISSTON: One enclosure \$9. CAR PARE: Club \$3; remainder free. SIS RACING CHANNEL

LEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: M Pipe - 11 winners from 44 runners gives a success ratio of 25.3% and a loss to a \$1 level stake of \$7.85; A Turnell - 9 winners, 29 runners, 31.3%, +53.49; T Thomson Jones - 8 winners, 37 runners, 21.3%, -\$9.04; N Twiston-Durises - 7 winners, 21 runners, 23.3%, +518.43;

LEADING JOCKEYS: Il Bridgwater - 12 wins, 40 rides, 30.6%, +522.46; B Dunwoody - (2 wins, 42 rides, 29.6%, 50.2%; A Magnire - 10 wins, 50 rides, 17.9%, 421.06; Il Gallagher - 9 wins, 62 rides, 14.5%, \$41.62.

BLINKERED PIEST TIME: Supergold (2.101, Parliamentarian & Sophie May (2.40), Hawanafa (3.10). WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.

LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Rose Of Gleng (2.10) has been sent 177 miles by B Palling from Ystradowen, South Gamorgan.

PETER BORTON LIE AMATEUR PROFUE MONOCE HIRDNIE ICI ASS

]	L.10	E) £2,925 added 2m 7f Penalty Value £2,688
lī	20-10	
ĪŽ	11	
Ιã	1.1	MINELLA DERBY (74) (B C NIDA) P Nicholas 7 12 5
ĬÃ		CLARKES GORSE (Sir Enc Parker) J Griford 8 11 12Nr P O'Keeffe (7)
1 5	4233-P	DRUM BATTLE (54) (David Chown) W Turner 5 11 12
8	5-0	EAU SO SLOE (39) (Mrs.) Drucel Jamie Pouton 6 11, 12
7	/3/34-22	FINE SIR (46) (BF) (N M Warts) Thorreon Jones 7 11 12
8	P-03	KIND CLERIC (56) (The Hammer Partnershot) P Hoobs 6 11 12
9		LETIMO WARRIOR (Raymond Singert K Burke 5 11 17
10	455-0	
11	OP45-10	
12	2154	QUINI EAGLE (FR) (8) (8 A Kilpatrick) M Pipe 5 11 12 Mr A Farrack (5)
13		RYDER CUP (A String) N Henderson 5 11 12 Mr C Vigoro (5)
14	04	ZADOK (48) (Mrs Jenny Wilment) J Ffech-Heyes 5 11 12
15	0040	FORTUNES GLEAM (56) (Mrs & J Garrett) J King 6 11 7
16	00-	RAKAPOSHB HAP (249) (T W H Dancer) C Junes 7 11, 7

- 16 declared -BETTING: 3-1 Emerald Statement, 9-2 Minello Derby, 11-2 Quint Engle, 8-1 Ryder Cup, 13-2 Fine

EMERALD STATEMENT carries just the single penalty despite having won twice, his first success in this country coming in a conditional jockeys nowce hurdle at Folkestone. The geiding, a winning pointer in Ireland, was very impressive in beating Forest Musik 24 lengths and followed up with an easy win at odds-on at Plumpton. This is a tougher task for Emerical Statement, but he has Robert Thomton taking off 5th. Mimelia Dertoy, successful in an insh bumper, dinfted from 5-4 to 4-1 on his hurdling debut at Chepstow but held on for a length success from Hurdame (Lelicester winner yesterday). This longer trip will be in his favour and he can be made finer. Clarifers Gorea and Ryder Cup have both won a point-to-point in Ireland. Kempton bumper winner Quint lengte gave more encouragement in fourth to Korbell at Lelicester than he had on his hurdles debut, but there are slight doubts about his stamma, a comment that also applies to Hereford winner Mather. Bayard is trued blinkered after a disappointing show at Newbury, while Kind Cleric is one to feer after his third to Mighty Moss at Chepstow on his hurdling bow.

Selection: EMERALD STATEMENT FORM GUIDE

1.40 RAMPART 'NATIONAL HUNT' MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,650 added 2m 110yds Penalty Value £3,091

BETTHIR: 5-1 Spleadid Thyse, 11-2 Single Sourcing, 6-1 Lively Encounter, 8-1 Sursum Corde, 9-1 Zander, 10-1 Cyptwatis, Dark Orchard, 12-1 Double Achievement, Mediator, 14-1

BETTRIE: 5-1 Sylendid Thyme, 11-2 Single sources, e.g., Livery streament, Neithror, 14-1 others
Zender, 10-1 Cyphretis, Dark Orchard, 12-1 Double Achievement, Neithror, 14-1 others
SINGLE SOURCING has a 15-month absence to overcome, but he has shown he goes well
fresh, wrining on his mosecourse debut at Utbooter in May 1995 and finishing fourth to
Mandys Maritino al Chetterham first time out last season, and could be good enough. Henrietta Knight's sov-year-old came up against a top bumper horse in Andanito on his final
start at Newbury and did well to firsh 10 lengths second of 24. Spleasidd Thyse benefited from racing alone up the far side when winning a Newbury bumper for Rogar Hoad but
showed far form to be 10 lengths second to Boardroom Shuffie (easy winner again here
since) on his hurdling debut at Folkestone - Charille's Folly fourth and held. After his Towcester bumper wit (Brockfampton Lame fourth), Lively Encounter was slightly disapportung
on his hurdling bow when fourth to Best Of All at Musseburgh. A begger threat may be Sursum Condo, a staying on fourth of 21 to Dawn Leader at Worcester in April in a bumper
and with Richard Duriwoody booked. Double Achievement showed only a fittle promae in
two bumpers last season but must be leared from Marin Pipe's yard. Jim Old's Thirty Below, half-brother to Call it A Day, is a newcomer to note, although stablemate Uprheing
weers the owners' first colours.

2.10 MOAT SELLING HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,375 added 2m 110yds Penalty Value £2,219

1	50/	ANOTHER FIDDLE (783) (Ats 0 Crick) 8 Pearce 7 11 5	T J Marphy
2	00-F0	DR DAVE (172) (Dave Doon) P Chamings 6 11 5	A Thorston
3	400	FRANKS JESTER (85) (Mrs J Olivani) Mrs J Primer 8 11,5	W Marston
4	P	SAYITAGAIN (216) (Technical Standards Services Ltd.) J January 5 11 5	
5	6P	SULLANGIL (36) U G Hoddert R Hodges 8 11 5	S Sorrandh
6	23-48	BELLA SEDONA (63) (E Renel) Lady Hernes 5 11 0	R Dunwoody
ž	UP4200-	CELTIC LILLEY (286) (Mrs. J E Taylor) J Floch-Hoyes 7 11 0	R Contro C
8	00044-0	JOSBER'S FIDDLE (227) (Berishre Commercial) O Williams 5 11 0	N Williams
ğ	P	KIRKOE CROSS (149) (Airs A Squires) K Wingrove 5 110	I Resur 8
10	PRFP03	LAURA LYE (46) (Chante Productions) B De Haan 7 11 0	
11	0-4	ROSE OF GLENN (6) (5 Suthan) 8 Pating 6 11 0	R Farrand
12	(P	TOMORROWS HARVEST (47) (D H Smatu R Hodges 5 11 0	7 Descombe (3)
13	24/4-P	TREAD THE BOARDS (48) (BF) (D A Johnson) M Pipe 6 11 0	A P McCov
14	0	CODE RED (37) (Sowman Racing Partnership) W Mur 4 10 7	M Richards
15	U	EWAR BOLD (55) (A J Richards) K Curvingham-Brown 4 10 7	O Gallecher
18	00	HALF AN INCH (32) (T Date & Mr C Mas) Tuones 4 10 7	B Powell B
17	5	HAUTE CLUSINE (41) (Pars House Gournets) R Williams 4 10 7	I P Kausmach
18	•	ONE IN THE EYE IT Anthony! J Poutton 4 10 7	A Pinter
9	۸	STORM WIND (81) I'Mrs Elane M Burke) K Burke 4 10 7	
30		SUPERSOLD (37) (Custopher Muttay) C Muttay 4 10 7	
n			
"		ARCH ANGEL (38) (P H Wafford) G Charles-Jones 4 10 2	
~	J-	FLASH IN THE PAN (33) (Mrs Victora Googman) J S Moore 4 10 2	W 25/26/20 0

BETTING: 7-2 Bolks Sedone, Hests in The Past, 11-2 Trend The Bourds, 7-1 Code Hed, 8-1 Rose Of Gierr, 12-1 Another Feddle, 14-1 Dr Dave, 16-1 Hante Cuisine, Ever Bold, 20-1 eithers FORM GUIDE FLASH IN THE PAN, third to Stone Island at Exiter on her hurding debut, would have gone beating Stormounter at Utdowerer last time but for falling at the last. She gets all wances here and can make amends in a poor race even by selling standards. Beling managed to be placed both starts lest seeson at Fortwell and Warwick, but she

could finish only fourth to Bayerd when favourite for her Plumpton return and was well beat-

en behind Canary Falcon on her handicap debit at Kempton. This is a big drop in class and Richard Durwoody rides. Tread The Boards is another to have shown promise from a firnted number of hurde runs, but she flooped at Chapstow in Ains Sot it's ross on her return from a year's absence lists month – Lauris Lye a poor tind. Rose Of Glenn, fourth of 12 to Sam Rockett at Tauristn's ax days ago, has a chance, while Abotther Fiddle, fit from the Fist, could go well on his first hurdles run in two years, Selections FLASH IN THE PAN

	2 ANI	LOUI MONICE UNADIONE, CERESE (CENERA EL SANOIS ACCES.)
۲	2.40	2m 4f 110yds Penaity Value £3,571
1	03541-1	SCORESHEET (58) (Per-meil Partners) J Groot 7 1; 10
2		JULEIT JONES (24) Lichn Plackard J Grant 8 11 7
3	5U6-22F	REESHLOCH (35) (Mrs M R Taylor) A Turnel 8 11 7 C Ree (7)
4	26-32F3	AMBIER SPARK (43) (BF) (R E Brinkworth) O Gandolo B 11 5
5		MOVING OUT (33) AM's Study Bruster) Miles H Prograt 9 11 4
6		BALLYMGYR (82) (P Michael Mrs G White Mrs R Kavarragh) E Wheeler 8 11 4.D Callagher
7	P/P52-40	PARLIMAGENCIARIAN (62) (I G M Victory T Casey 8 11 2
8	2263-10	BASSENHALLY (57) (Thomey Racing Club) Mrs P Sty 7 11 0
9	1P-2044	SOPINE MAY (41) (BP) (I Dentels) L Morongue Half 6 10 13
10	P2232-P	BATHWICK BOBENE (47) (W Carford) O Whitems 10 10 12
11	/5470-P4	VECTORY GATE (USA) (41) (Ms P S Dorlard Mrs 1 Jones 12 10 2
12		
13	0200-3	BARONCELLI (32) (The Gardens) M Willonson 7 10 0
14	44F/0-F0	BORDWIFER (51) (Toncester Members Race Cub) M Walerson 8 10 0

Millinum weign: 10st. True handloop weign: Bornite 9st 12b. ETTRE: 3-1 Amber Spark, Sconscheet, 5-1 Mirring Out, 5-1 Resubloch, Bessenbelly, 10-1 ones, 12-1 Sophie May, 14-1 Ballymyr, 18-1 Bullweit Bobbie, 20-1 Beroccill, 25-1 Ober FORM GUIDE

The form of the Folkestone (2m) race in which Scoreabeet best Resemblech (second) and Soptale May (fourth) trasm't worked out well, but Scoresheet won comfortably and that must go down as a decent debut effort over fences, especially as, he was having his first run mover a year and stays a good deal further. Scoresheet can probably improve enough to best most of these despite top weight, but AMBER SPARM gets 5th and looks sure to make a race of it after being placed three times over fences for today's rater, Richard Dutwoody. David Gandorio has had a winner since the freeze - Ganylough at Kempton last. Schurdey, Like Scoresheer, Mewling Out was very lightly raced last term and he ran by no means back y over an Inadequate two miles at Uttobeter on his reappearance. Bassanthally was up against if first time over femas in Mister Drum's race at Huntington and this should be much more his sort of race considering he best two last-time-out witners when success-

TUR	ful in a nowce handresp hundle on his reapplearance at uncorater. Selections which severe				
3	3.10	KEEP NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,925 added 2m 110yds Penalty Value £2,408			
1	32-3	NORE STRRED (56) (Coin French J GRand 7 11 12			
2	6-31223	SALEP (FR) (33) (P Seda) R Hotges 5 11 11			
3	07246/0-	FIGNAMS FLUTTER (412) IR V Worth 0 Esworth 9 11 6			
4	401-003	SER CANTE (47) (Peter R Willy) R Rove 6 10 13			
5	232-P64	TOPANGA (SIG U McGulgary J Bernett 5 10 17. D Sridgester B			
8	604-56	BLEMM JANDIE (56) (Tom Segue) P Rathers 8 10 11			
7	00-662	MUSEUM (32) (R O Barber & R J B Blake) P Winterach 6 10 10			
8		COOL GLOWIER (35) (Richard Peterson) J King 7 10 9			
9	0-6P	GENTLE BREEZE (57) (D G Trangerar) J Galard 5 10 8			
10	0F-05	O MY LOVE (35) (M C Wiles) Mass H Kraght 6 10 7			
11	54 PPGU	KINGT'S GOLD (32) 4G C Relly) Mrs L Richards 7 10 7			
12	12				
13		THAT OLD FEELING (53) DATS P Shewood! J White 5 10 0			
14		TUDOR TOWN (35) (P O Purely) K Bishop 9 10 0			
15	043-P00	ROYAL CLRIT (47) (Mrs H E Haynes) H Haynes 8 10 0			
16	PF-PF0	MASTER GOODENOUGH (48) (Moorsale's Partnership) A Foster 6 10 0 D Creech (7)			
17		MURPHY'S RUM (48) (Brien & Lemandori) P Socies 7 10 0			
40	000	UNIVERSE (44) (Cond Languages) C. Marrie 4 10 0			

— 18 declared — um weight: 10st. True handisap weight: Tudor Town 9st 11th, Hoyel Gifnt 9st 7th, Master Goode Militum Wegner List. Her manage wages.

North St. 76. Murphy's Run 9st 4b. Hawarush 9st.

BETTING: 7-4 There Areas, 13-2 Cool Gozzer, 7-1 None Stirred, 15-2 Salley, 9-1 Sir Dunta, 11-1 Museum, 12-1 Topongs, 14-1 Geptie Brooze, Benth Junice, Romaneum Finther, 16-1 others FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

Without the Brooze Stand Cooling three county from sound down three

THENSE AREMA failed to hold on to a clear lead at Warwack list time, going down three lengths to Name Of Our Father m a juvenile hurdle, but she can make amends here. The filly had made a winning debut over timber with an easy success in a Taunton seller and will be the fittest in the field having trushed an encouraging sixth to Raffles Rooster on the Flot at Southwell lists week. None Stirred has resided the frame in each of his three runs, lest time going down just half a length in third to Sparkling Sorting at Windsor. He should will a race but has it to do conceding the selection TOID, Gool Gunner is 8b higher than when winning at Exeter last month, Saflep has dropped 3b since his Hereford that to Hay Dance but remains exposed, while the trip is likely to prove too sharp for Sir Danta, bester 27 lengths in third to Wade Rood at Exeter last time.

3	3.40	DAVE FREEMAN MEMORIAL HANDICAP CHASE (CLAS £3,475 added 3m Penalty Value £3,015	3S F)
1	FILIT/O-P	BRAYE BUCCANEER (34) (D) (R.C Watts) A Turnell 10 12 0	Rate (7)
2		CHEF RAGER (32) (D) Clames Chestram) N Twister-Davies 8 11 13 D Brid	
3	013521	PROFESSOR STRONG (274) (8 Kithy & J Bladwell) P Nichols 9 11 12 N Will	WW300
4	/42P/P4	MICHTY FROLIC (43) (CD) [Maurice E Parati Miss S Edwards 10 11 9	THE
5	0130	DARRIGHTHE BRAVE (831) (D) (D F Alporu C Brooks 9 11 9	hadey
6		ZAMBEZI SPRIT (49) (D) (BF) (P C Townsend) Mrs Memia Jones B 11 5 Densi	
7		LITTLE-NETPER (1438) Mars J Moudol R Smoth 12 11 4	
8		NEANO (291) (Micaron Partnershot P Hobbs 8 11.2	
9	6539U4	BLACK CHURCH (43) (Dr B Alexander) R Rowe 11 10 13	
10		SUGAR HELL (43) (D) (Mrs Timothy Plifengton) J Giftord 7 10 13	
11	/12F0F	DATS N BARLEY (33) F A Landegart P Rodford B 10 11 S 8e	arriugh.
12		CAPAINGFORD LAKES (32) (Ats L G Turnet 7 Thomson Jones 9 10 10	Serate.
13	31226/-P		
14			
15		SPIKEY (NZ) (149) (D) (S Powell) Jeriors 11 10 8 0	store
		EASTERN RIVER (51) (BF) (Gameton Equine) T Forge 11 10 B	
17		VALNAS (FR) (1905) (Namin Pipe Racing Club) M Pipe 10 10 4	
18	0P0/3-P	UTILE ROWLEY (48) (I A Judii Nis (Retards 8 10 0	charts
1.	L	and the Top benefit and the three Control for 14th	

— 1.8 declared —

Minhrum weight: 10st. True handbap weight Little Rowley Str. 11th.

BETTING: 9-2 Eastern River, 11-2 Sogist Hill, 7-1 Keason, Professor Strong, 9-1 Zambed Spirt, 10-1 Chief Rager, 12-1 Parren The Brave, Oats N Bartey, 14-1 Black Charch, Carlingford Leiket, Valmen, 16-1 Brave Decopanser, 25-1 Minesettain, Spilloy, Nighty Prole, 33-1 others

FORM, CRUDE

Although an 11-year-old, EASTERN RIVER has not had many noces and the signs are that he ts not deteriorating. He has won two of just four races over fences, at Leitester and Warwick, and finished in the money on the others, last onne going down by only a tength to Lord Of The West at Worcester, Professor Strong can pose a bug threat despite this being his first run in this country. The non-year-old wound up his career in Ireland with success in quite a valuable chase at Punchestown. Keano makes a belated respectance — he was down to run at Newton Abbot on Boarig Day. He went in at the first time of asking last season at the Devon course and wound up with victory there, but this is unfalley to prove a sufficient, test of stamms. Sugar Hill made all of Hymingsion last time to land a madeen chase and being allowed to lead appeared to improve his jumping. Selection: EASTERN RIVER

WEATHERBYS OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £1,500 acided 2m 110yds Penalty Value £1,306 1 ARREY ROYAL (\$2) (\$2) (both Bodel 104 6 11 11		nowed to lead appeared to improve his Jumpag. Senecuti	
1 APRLEY ROYAL (32) (ED) Uchn Botell J Old 6 11 11 C Upton 10 MIDAS (35) (0 G & D J Robusson) K Burke 6 11 11 A P McCoy BBSOUND (Max V M Williams) Mass Veneto Williams 5 11 4 N Williamson BOLD LEAP (Not Generators Partnership P Webber 5 11 4 N Williamson BOLD LEAP (Not Generators Partnership P Webber 5 11 4 S Laird (7) DANTE'S GOLD (The Emerate Partnership) C Egirtan 6 11 4 J Osborna EDMOND (FR) (Lody Muschord Cast 7 Fossiar 5 11 4 D Bridgmenter HAZ KALEN (Max O Trongs-17 P Hobbs 5 11 4 D Bridgmenter HAZ KALEN (Max O Trongs-17 P Hobbs 5 11 4 S T Tomation NORLANDIC (NZ) (The Ril House Partnership) P Hobbs 5 11 4 K A Pitzgerski RASAK (Lody Hennes) Lady Hernes 5 11 4 E Marphy TEDROS Lim Berthy Mica A Howton-Smith 6 11 4 M R I Tomation (5) WELSH ASSIET Miss Castorna MacDoracki P. Wingtone 6 11 4 M R I Tomation (5) WELSH ASSIET Miss Castorna MacDoracki P. Wingtone 6 11 4 M R I Tomation (6) WELSH WESTER (Cool From Band) P Webber 5 10 13 J R C Wigors (5) WINGLEY WINGTONE (Massier Gozoff From Band) P Webber 5 10 13 P Rich Confidence (Cool From Band) P Webber 5 10 13 P Rich Confidence (Cool From Band) P Webber 5 10 13 P Rich Confidence (Cool From Band) P Webber 5 10 13 P Rich Cool From Band) P Rich Cool Fro	4.10	WEATHERBYS OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT I HI £1.500 aided 2m 110vds Penatty Value	RACE (CLASS £1.306
10 MIDAS (36) (0 G & D.) Ficharson I K Burke 6 11 11. A P MicCoy BISSOURD (Max V M Williams) Mas Veneto Williams 5 11 4 M Williamson BOLD LEAP (Mo Generators Partnership) P Webber 5 11 4 M A Sanason CALDEBROOK (Miss Dewns Withdrien) J Groot 6 11 4 S Laird (7) DANTES COLD (The Emead Partnership) C Egratio 6 11 4 J Obsorbe EDMOND (FR) (Loby Mustistrat) Copt 7 Foster 5 11 4 D bridgmenter of PRAMICE MUSC (77) (R D Russel) N Twiston-Dows 5 11 4 D bridgmenter NAZ KALEM (Mis 0 Thompson) P Hobbs 5 11 4 D Bridgmenter NAZ KALEM (Mis 0 Thompson) P Hobbs 5 11 4 D Bridgmenter NAZ KALEM (Mis 0 Thompson) P Hobbs 5 11 4 M A Progenitor NAZ KALEM (Mis 0 Thompson) P Hobbs 5 11 4 M A Progenitor NAZ KALEM (Mis 0 Thompson) P Hobbs 5 11 4 M A Progenitor NAZ KALEM (Mis 0 Thompson) P Hobbs 5 11 4 M A Progenitor NAZ KALEM (Mis 0 Thompson) P Hobbs 5 11 4 M A Progenitor NAZ KALEM (Mis 0 Thompson) P Hobbs 5 11 4 M A P Tompson TEDMOND (Mis 10 Thompson) P Hobbs 5 11 4 M A P Tompson TEDMOND (Mis 10 Thompson Mis 10 Thompson (Mis 10 Thompson) P Hobbs 5 11 4 M A P Tompson Mis 10 Thompson (Mis 10 Thompson) P Webber 5 10 13 M A P Thompson FRED MOTH Arbitropy Charles Descript 1 Find 4 4 10 6 M P Mis 10 M Mis 10 Thompson Races I J Lenters 4 10 6 M B P Scott Partnership - 200 declared - G Bradley			
BISSOUND (Mass V M Williams) Mass Veneton Williams 5 11.4 M Williamson BOLD LEAP (Non Generators Partnershop) P Webber 5 11.4 Mr A Sansoner CALDERBOOK (Ms.) Devine Whitemen J. Gordf 6 11.4 S. Laird (T) DANTE'S GOLD (The Emerated Partnershop) C Egenton 6 11.4 J Osborna EDMONDO (PT) (Laby Windstord) Capt 7 Foster 5 11.4 A Thornton O PROMODE MICK (T7) (P.D. Rassell N Treatmo-Daves 5 11.4 D Bridgesotte NAZ KALEM (Mis 0 Thompson: P Hobbs 5 11.4 G Tompson NAZ KALEM (Mis 0 Thompson: P Hobbs 5 11.4 M A Progrand RASAK (Laby Homes) Laby Hemes 5 11.4 E Marry NORMANDIC (NZ) (The TRI Heyes Partnershop) P Hobbs 5 11.4 M A Progrand RASAK (Laby Homes) Laby Hemes 5 11.4 E Marry Tennos Lim Besty, Mica A Newton-Smith 6 11.4 Mr R Tompson (S) WELSH ASSET Mass Copona MacConstit N Wingtone 6 11.4 Mr R Tompson (S) WELSH ASSET Mass Copona MacConstit N Wingtone 6 11.4 Mr R Tompson (S) WELSH ASSET Mass Copona MacConstit N Wingtone 6 11.4 Mr C Myerrs (S) WELSH ASSET Mass Copona MacConstit N Wingtone 6 11.4 Mr C Myerrs (S) WELSH ASSET Mass Copona MacConstit N Wingtone 6 11.4 Mr C Myerrs (S) WELSH ASSET Mass Copona MacConstit N Wingtone 6 11.4 Mr C Myerrs (S) WELSH ASSET Mass Copona MacConstit N Wingtone 6 11.4 Mr C Myerrs (S) WELSH MASSET Masset (Mostage Fall P Webber 5 10 13 Mr P Scott FRED MINT Among Copona Rases (Cool Time Band) P Webber 5 10 13 Mr P Scott FRED MINT Among Copona Rases (J Lenars 4 10 6 D D Morris X-RAY (The Royson Rases) J Lenars 4 10 6 D D Morris X-RAY (The Royson Rases) J Lenars 4 10 6 D D D Morris X-RAY (The Royson Rases) J Lenars 4 10 6 D D D D D D D D D D D D D D D D D D	10	MINES (15) (C.A.D. I Princen) K Bute 6 11 11	A D MACON
BOLD LEAP (Not Generatives Partnership P Webber 5 11 4	100		
CALDEBROOK (Not Dewns Whitemers. J Groot 6 11 4			
DANTE'S GOLD (The Emerald Pathersho) C Ejernin 6 11 4			
EDMOND (FR) (Lady Wristsford) Capt 7 Foster 5 11 4 A Thornton O PRANCE MICK (77) (R D Russel N Trustm-Dave 5 11 4 D Bridgenote NAZ MALEN (Ms 0 Thorness-1) P Hobbs 5 11 4 G Townson NAZ MALEN (Ms 0 Thorness-1) P Hobbs 5 11 4 M A Fitzgarald RASK (Lady Hernes) Lady Hernes 5 11 4 E Marphy TEDROS Lim Bertin Mics A Hernes Tany 16 11 4 Mr T Townson Bertin Mics Control N Wington 6 11 4 Mr T Townson (7) WHOD OF THOUGHT IT HITTURE Farm Statists I P Clearway 6 11 4 Mr C Wigors (5) WISSELY WINSTON (Missley Golf Partnershy) IN Teston-Daves 6 11 4 Mr C Wigors (5) WISSELY WINSTON (Missley Golf Partnershy) IN Teston-Daves 6 11 4 Mr C Wigors (5) BECKAMBES (P State) P Butter 5 10 13 T J Morphy GOOD TANE DANIES (Cool From Born) P Wiston-Daves 6 11 4 P Michael RED MOTH (Antony Charles Born) I F Wind 12 G D P Michael WISSER ERMYN (I Danes) L Mortague Half 4 10 6 D D Morris X-RAY (The Royson Races) J Jerkors 4 10 6 G G Bradley			
O PROMODE MILCK (77) (R D Russell N Twiston-Dowes 5 11 4 D Bridgewiter NAX (NALEM (NAS O Triongsor) 2 Hobbs 5 11 4 G Torriery HORLANDIC (NZ) (the Till House Partnership P Hobbs 5 11 4 M A Fitzgerald RASAK (Lock) Homes 1 Lady Homes 5 11 4 E Marphy TEOROSS Lim Bathy Mics A Newton-Smith 6 11, 4 Me Torrieron (5) WELSH ASSET Mics Coloria MacDorald P. Wington 6 11 4 Me Torrieron (5) WHOLD OF TROUGHT IT HITMAN Farm Staties P Charring 6 11 4 Me C Mangle (7) WHOLD Y WARROOR (Missey Golf Partnership) N Twiston-Dowes 6 11 4 D Mangley GOOD TIME DANCER (Cood Fire Band) P Webber 5 10 13 F J Mangley GOOD TIME DANCER (Cood Fire Band) P Webber 5 10 13 Me P Scott FRED MOTH (Antony Charles Broant 1 Hand 4 20 6 P Michaelphila Russian Raser (The Royson Races) J Jennings 4 10 6 G Bradley - 20 declared - G Bradley			
NAZ KALEM (Mrs 0 Thompson) P Hotbs 5 11.4	_		
NORLANDIC (NZ) (The Tell House Partnership) P Hooks 5 11 4	0		
RASAK (Lody Hernes) Lady Hernes 5 11 4 E Marghly TEDROOS Liam Battly Miss A Newton-Smith 6 11 4 Mr Tosmation (S) WELSH ASSET Miss Conoma MacDonald P. Wingrove 6 11 4 Mr Tosmation (S) WHOD OF TROUGHT IT HITLUST Farm Staties P Clearing 6 11 4 Mr A Whatle (7) WHISLEY WARROOR (Missley Golf Partnership) N Twiston-Dones 6 11 4 L Manade BECHAMISTE (P Butter) P Butter 5 10 13 T J Manade BECHAMISTE (P Staties) P Butter 5 10 13 Mr P Staties GOOD TIME DANCER (Cood Free Band) P Webber 5 10 13 Mr P Staties WARD MOTH (Antony Charles Brown 1 Field 4 20 6 P Missonghilar BUSTER ERSYN (J Danesh) Morriage Half 4 10 6 D D Morris X-RAY (The Royston Racers) J Jensors 4 10 6 G Bradley - 20 declared -			
TEDROSS Lim Bethy Mics A Newton-Smith 6 11.4)		
WELSH ASSET MASS Copona MacDonath it Wingove 6 11 4	ι		
WHOD OF THOUGHT IT (Immust Farm Staties) P Charmage 6 11 4	?		
WISLEY WARROOR (Waley Golf Partnershy) N Twiston-Dowes 6 11 4	3	WELSH ASSET Mass Copping MacDonald P. Wingove 6 11 4	
WISLEY WARROOR (Waley Golf Partnershy) N Twiston-Dowes 6 11 4	1	WHOD OF THOUSHT IT (httpust Farm Staties) P Charmes 6 11 4	Mr C Vieters (5)
GOOD TIME DANCER (Good Area Band) P Webber 5 10 13	;		
GOOD TIME DANCER (Good Area Band) P Webber 5 10 13	,	BECKANERE (P Butter) P Butter 5 10 13	T J Nikaraky
RRED MOTH (Antony Charles Broant I Hind 4 20 6			
MUSTER ERMYN (I Danes) I. Mortague Heil 4 10 6			
X-RAY (The Royston Racers) J Jeniors 4 10 6			
- 20 declared -			
	T7940- 0.4		Steam Coul Time

SEDGEFIELD

12.55 Ardrina 1.25 In A Moment 2.00 Corpora Kirkwood 2.30 Tagatay 3.00 Dragonmist 3.30 Val De Rama 4.00 Anabranch INSPECTION: 7.30am GOING: Good (Soft on bend).

Left-band, undulating course, Easy Jenes

Course is 1m SE of town near junction of A689 and A177- MISSTIN: Puddock 58 (OAFs 54); Course 52. CAR PARK:	٨
SIS CHANNEL	
BLINESESS FIRST TIME: Flaming Hope (visored), Gauthy pecked (4.00).	He
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Gunmaker (3 10) at Luriow on Thursday.	T .
LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Minuter's Madam 11.25), Ni Pet (2.0016 Suovy Lane 13.00) have been sent 270 miles by I N	
(rom Newport, Gwent; Nord Lys (125) & Guennaker (100) 254 miles by B Lievrellyn from Bargoed, Mid Glauryngar, Des mist (100) sent 352 miles by D Burghell from Pricey Hill, Gw	4
12.55 SKI-ING THE MARES NOVICE HURI	K

00-000 ALAM'S PRIBLE (8) W McHeom 6 11 0... 30-33 ARDHRIA (81) (87) F Murrhy 6 11 0.... 5F5-000 COQUET GOLD (8) F Waten 5 11 0..... 0-0 PARRY (50) 5 Bel 5 11 0 ______ 1/F PARSON'S LEDGE (71) L'Lungo 9 11 0. RED-STOAT Mrs J Surey B 11 0 S REDIGION MRS / SURVE 110

O SANTA RARRAMA (40) C Graff 5 110...

11 5300-43 SEPTEMBER BREIZE (47) x Morgan 6 110...

12 0 WHATYEROMABUT (50) G M Morg 5 110...

-12 decising
BETTING: \$-4 September Breeze, \$-1 Dark Phoenb, 6-1 Art
Lodge, T-1 Uppy Leeler, \$-1 Alan's Pride, 15-1 others

1.25 STONEGRAVE SELLING HANDICAP HUR-

Ľ		DLE (ULASS G) 12,3/5 2m 1f
1	350-272	PURGETTO (35) (8F) M Hammond 7 12 0R Carrier
2		MINSTER'S MADAM (44) (D) J Newler 5 11 8 R Johnson 1
3		DUGORT STRAND (333) O Breman 6 10 10
4	500-303	OVER STATED 1422 P Cheestrough 7 10 9
5	0446-30	ALINTE ALICE (48) FroGerato Y 10 9P Carberry
5		ALDE MEMORE (37) (D) R Johnson 8 10 9
7	53P14p	MICK THE YANK (377) H Ower 7 10 6 We H J Olber (7)
8	05-3004	APPEARANCE MONEY (4) F Marphy 5 10 5 A Magain
9		SHARMOOR IS 4 Mes t Social 5 105
10	025-654	PI A MOMENT (USA) (35) C Grant B 103 A Dobble
11		NORD LYS (160) (D) B Usestyn 6 10 2 Miss E.J. Jones (7)
12	00-3700	POLLOW DE CALL (47) O McCan 7 10 1 O Walet
13	F45-480	DOUBLING DICE (12) R Allan 6 10 1 B Storey
14	P5-5005	COOL STEEL (35) Mrs J Brown 5 10 0 A 6 Smith 9
15	FOXEU3-	NOSMO KING (487) Mrs M Kendali 8 10 0Mrs M Kendali
		STORBURG LORNA (71) W Mcreown 7 10 0
		- 15 declared -
BE	THG: 11-3	2 Able Messeire, 6-1 Minster's Madem, 7-5 Over Stated, 8

1 Parietto, Hord Lys, 16-1 in A Moment, 12-1 others

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sport

Tyrrell spurred

on by old boy

network of F1

Derick Allsop meets a man relishing

formances, Ken Tyrrell duly ap-

is Tyrrell's 30th, and he faces a

reinforced challenge as he con-

fronts the prospect of a midfield

hands of the man who won three

world titles in his car is a scenario

he dares not contemplate.

Tyrrell, who unveiled his lat-

est car in London's Leicester

Square on Monday night, said:

'l told Paul, Jackie's son, to tell

his dad we're going to hlow him

into the weeds. Paul said l

should tell him myself, but I told

him 1 didn't think Jackie could

stand the shock."

most distinguished old boy.

peared for his annual launch.

Closed roof **Opens new** arguments

MEN'S SINGLES

v G IVANISEVIC (Croal)

OF T MUSTER (Aut)

WOMEN'S SINGLES

M-J FERNANDEZ JUST or

D Van Roost (Bel)

DERRICK WHYTE reports from Melbourne

The Australian Open quarterfinals came in out of the heat yesterday hut not everybody was happy about it. For the first time ever, the Centre Court roof was closed to protect players and spectators from heat exceeding 40C in the shade and

more than 60°C on court. Although players wilted and complained in similar conditions the previous two days, the tournament referce, Peter Bellenger, did not have the option of closing the roof because it would not have been fair to all

v M HINGIS (Swit) or the competitors: I SPIRLEA (Rom) some would have played in the heat and some avoided it.

Before the quarter-finals, which westerday saw Carlos Moya, Michael Chang, Mary Pierce and Amanda Coetzer all win, some singles matches are played on Centre Court, and others on outer courts with no

STUART ALEXANDER

reports from Key West, Florida

Richard Matthews, the British

Admiral's Cup team captain,

was a happy man at the Key

West Race Week yesterday af-

ter watching two of his three

charges acquit themselves well

day's games, all singles match-es are on the 15,000-seat Centre Court and the roof can be closed at Bellenger's discretion if temperatures reach 35C.

Still, some players wanted the roof open so their hitness or playing style, better suited to wind and sun, might give them an edge. "I was going to play any-way so even il it's spowing, raining or 60 degrees I don't care," the unseeded Moya said after beating his fellow spaniard Felix Mantilla in four sets.

Semi-final line-ups have heen a different match in P SAMPRAS (US) OF A COSTA (Sp) wind," a furinus Mantilla said. Bellenger said: M CHANG IUS; v C Moya (Spl "We haven't had

"I think it may

40-degree tem-COETZER (SA) v M Pierce (Fr) peratures in Melbourne for eight years. I thought it was better for the game, for the players and for the public, to be able to view the game in relative comfort, 1

serves some consideration." Moya had to put friendship aside as he disposed of the 14thseeded Mantilla 7-5, 6-2, 6-7. 6-2. Once considered just anroof. But starting with yester- other Spanish clay-court base-

pleased with the performance

of the Olympic 470 silver

medallists, John Merricks and

lan Walker. The pair have al-

ready shown they can make the

transition to bigger boats by coming second in the UK

McIges 24 Championships and

in the Gold Cup in Barcelona.

By moving up from 14ft boats, through 24ft and up to

Mumm 36 they are showing an

Matthews was especially adaptability which could take

think in all this, the public de-

liner, Moya has grown in confi-dence since beating the de-Rios 7-5, 6-1, 6-4 in just under two hours. fending champion, Boris Becker, Chang has dropped only one in the lirst round. Yesterday he set in his past five matches at regularly came to the net. It was Spain's best performance at the Australian Open since Andres Gimeno lost the 1969 final to Rud Lawr. Moya now meets Chang, the

world No 2, who reached the semi-finals for the third successive year. Chang, who has not won a Grand Slam event since the French Open eight years ago, ruthlessly disposed of the ninth-seeded Chilean Marcelo

Merricks and Walker prove to be an adaptable double act

them all the way to an Ameri-ca's Cup. They underlined this

vesterday when posting a third

in a classy fleet in their first

Mumm 36 start on Tim Barratt's

Bradamante, And on the mid-

dle boat, Tony Buckingham's 40-foot Easy Oars, Andy Beadsworth, just pipped for an

Olympic medal in the Soling last

year, steered another young

crew to second place in its

Melbourne Park. He was a beaten finalist here last year and has also been runner-up at the French and US Open in the past two years. He said he did not feel under any pressure. "I'm not too concerned about

whether or not I'm able to win another Grand Slam title and stuff like that," he said. "I like to think things are getting better and better... I still feel like my best tennis is ahead of me."

Only the hig boat, Graham Walker's Corel 45 Indulgence,

struggled. Matthews, however,

was quick to point out that the

purpose of this regatta, which

has attracted a record 262 en-

tries, is not a matter of indi-

vidual race results, but the start

of a serious six-month drive to

ensure top billing in an Admi-

ral's Cup that will be far from

And aiming to make it

In the first women's quarterfinal, South Africa's Amanda Coetzer showed the same form which helped her bring down top seed Steffi Graf as she beat Kimberley Po of the United States 6-4, 6-1. Although Po managed to break Coetzer's serve once in

verted six out of six break points. Coetzer also criticised the decision to shut the roof, although she conceded it had given her and Po a break from the heat. "I definitely would have pre-ferred playing outside. I love playing out in the sun," she said.

tougher will be the man who

must stand out as the top sailor

in the world, the New Zealan-

der Russell Coutts, The Amer-

ica's Cup winner swept all

before him last year to re-es-

tablish himself at the top of the

world match race rankings. Yes-

terday, he was back in the top

slot of class one, racing Cana-

dian John Risley's new 46-

In the Melges 24 class the Eu-

each set, the South African con-

Pierce, in her quarter-final against Sahine Appelmans of Belgium, lost the first set 6-1 before levelling in the second and then came back from 3-0 down in the third to win 1-6, 6-4, 6-4.

"That's the great thing about tennis, you never know what's going to happen," she said, looking forward to a tough semi-final with Coetzer.

Second-seeded Britons
David Sherwood and James Trotman defeated Croat Ivan Ljubicic and Italian Federico Luzzi 6-3, 6-4 in the second round of the boys doubles.

ropean flag is being carried by

the Italian Giorgio Zuccoli, the winner of the Glenfiddich Eu-

ropean circuit last year, who is

sailing one of the new hulls de-

veloped by Rob White in Britain.

The home-grown opposition is strong, with Dave Chapin sur-

prising no one by winning the

first race, beating Dave Ullman into second place as Zuccoli

hung on to finish fourth in the

the start of the grand prix season It is taking Tyrrell rather more time than he would have Formula One is an evershifting landscape, hut some things never change and, as liked to rejoin F1's heavyweights. Stewart's championship regular as Old Father Time, and successes were back in 1969, 1971 and 1973. The team last won a grand prix in 1983. This despite recent indifferent per-This time, however, there was season. Tyrreli predicts, he will cause for renewed optimism and have a more competitive car/engine package, and believes the signing of the Dutchman Jos purpose. The season beckoning

Verstappen, in place of Ukyo

Katayama, to partner Finland's much-vaunted Mika Salo, gives contest with Jackie Stewart, his him one of his strongest driver Stewart's much-trumpeted arpairings for years. rival as a team chief appears to "It is my joh to get the right package for the team, so rehave sharpened Tyrrell's apcently I've not been doing my job right," Tyrrell said. "We had an appalling season in 1996 – only five points, eighth in the petite. Stewart has secured a factory deal with Ford for V10 engines while Tyrrell, having parted company with Yamaha, has Ford V8 units, but defeat at the

> "Ford and Cosworth should give us the reliability we require and Jos is a young driver I have been very impressed with. It was difficult for him when he was first thrown in by Benetton alongside Michael Schumacher - it was an almost impossihle situation. But last year with Footwork he looked very good and I'm delighted to get him.

"I'm equally delighted Mika is still with us. People have been Good-natured wind-up it may have been, hut Tyrrell will be anxious to avoid acute embarrassment when the F1 tour opens with the Australian Grand Prix in Melbourne on 9 March. "I'm not thinking about be-

ing embarrassed because I don't expect to be beaten by Jackie, You might imagine the last Tyrrell said, "He's going to find it difficult, as I'm sure he knows. It's going to be hard to make the jump to running a team in Formula One.
"When we started you could huy a car from someone, which

is what we did for the first couple of years. Now it's much more complex, huilding your own car and setting up the whole organisation. But Jackie is a determined person, and I'm sure he'll make it in the end. It's just that it will take time and peo-ple must understand that."

constructors' championship really had.

trying to take him away from us and 1 can understand why. He has a lot of talent. I'm sure they'll push one another and that will take the team forward. It's what we need."

thing Tyrrell needed was a 30th season in the manic world of F1, hut he laughs off any sugges tions of retirement. "It is still the same for me as it was in 1968, he said. "I have the same enthusiasm, the same nervousness at the start and waiting for our cars to come round at the end of the first lap. I love it.

This season we want to have a number of podium finishers and show we are capable of running with the top teams. We have to get it right. We should know if we have on 9 March."



حيكذا من الاعل

Roofed-in: Centre Court was closed because of the heat for the first time at the Australian Open yesterday Photograph: Reuter

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e. **Greg Wood** report

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RICHARD EDMONDS NAP: Lively Encome

Contract

Variations.

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INDEPENDENT LATEST RESULTS AND TOP 50 TEAMS

FITTY LEAGUE TABLE

CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 17 AUGUST - 12 JANUARY

POS	NAME	TEAM	POINTS
	MR PETER ERANKENTAL	MARTI	649
	MR SIMON DRAPER	PLATE EC.	627
	MR P FRANKENTAL	ARLENSIU	624
	MR WILLIAM BARR	KRUEGER F C	620
	MR G.MURFYTT	CLEAN SHEETS F C	616
1	MR NICK NIGHT	KNIGHT'S NANA HEAD	614
3_	MB PAUL MATTHEW	THE DOOR MAT	612
5	MR R PRINGLE	DEEPDALE VILLA 7	610
5_	MR C NOBEL	TOFT	610
a	MR RICK YAP	OUT OF MIND	609
0	MR THATHAN MCCROSSEN	WASH TOP ARMY	608
2	MR BILL COOPER	YEP MOP 2000	606
2	MR ANDREW BLIBHAN	WIMBLEDON STUPID HEADS	606
2	MR K B MALCOLM	INTER MALCOLM	60/
8	MR DARREN GREEN	FOR THE AZURE	(AS
8	MR D R KENNEDY	HAMMERS UNITED	605
3	MR RAYMOND CHICKEN	ALLYE MEN FROM UNCLE 2	604
	MR STEVEN HART	KEE'S COWBOYS	603
	MR M THOMAS	BAGGY BOYS IN STRIPES	603
5	MR PA GOODING	TEAM SOUIDLIPS	603
	MR LAN ZEIDER	THE FOOTBALL BANDITS	602
	MR DAVID ASHTON	THE LODGERS	602
	MR SCOTT LYNEEF	HOO HA SERENADERS	602
		TESSA'S LITTLE MARVELS	601
7	MR S. LAWRENCE		
7	MR JOHN WANEING	4000 HOLES	601
7	MR ADAM HOGG	BLAGGY HOGG	601

THE INDEPENDENT

supported by Philips Energy Saver Light Bulbs.

The Team Market and Scores table published below, shows four scores. The Week 23 (Wk 23) column lists all points scored in matches played between Monday 13 January - Sunday 19 January inclusive. Column B lists all points scored before the transfer period. Column A lists all points scored after the transfer period. The Overall (Ov) column lists the total amount of points scored in all matches played from Saturday 17 August - Sunday 19 January.

Also published today is the Top 50 League table (see left). It lists the overall top scoring Independent Fan-

POINTS WALUE CODE PLAYER

oday we publish the latest results in our tasy Foothall managers and their teams for match. The overall Top 50 League table will be printed every Independent Fantasy Football game, es played between Saturday 17 August - Sunday 12 Wednesday and again on Sunday.

January.

Results will be published every Wednesday in The Independent for all games played from the previous Monday to Sunday inclusive. They will also appear the following Sunday, in the Independent on Sunday.

SCORING SYSTEM

4 points for a goal 🗷 4 points for a goalkeeper/defender clean sheet ■ 3 points for a successful assist ■ 1 point when a player is selected and plays = I point for a winning goal = 3 points for a manager win, I point for a draw - Lose 1 point for a yellow card - Lose 3 points for a red card

Let's wake things better

ferms and conditions as previously published

PRIZES

The overall winner at the end of the season will he the entrant who has accrued more points than any other Independent Fantasy Football team in that time. Win the ultimate prize - a trip to the 1998 World Cup in France. The winner, plus companion, will see all the action of a quarter-final and a semi-final of their choice, plus the final. In addition, the highest scoring team each month will win a pair of tickets to one of England's World Cup qualifying games at Wemhley.

TEAM MARKET AND SCORES A - After transfer period

OVERALL SCORE CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 17 AUGUST - 19 JANUARY; WEEK 23 SCORE CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 6 JANUARY - 19 JANUARY

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Tour tees off in America's shadow

ANDY FARRELL reports from Gold Coast, Queensland

If the expectation is that the Americans, led by a rampant Tiger Woods, will turn them over in the Ryder Cup come September, it may not be entirely unsuitable for Europe's golfers to be beginning their season Down Under. At least they will set off with hope, or anyway at Hope Island, where the Johnnie Walker Classic tees off to-

The emergence of not just the phenomenon that is Woods, hut others such as Phil Mickelson. Steve Stricker. Justin Leonard and David Duval, has certainly helped to make the US Tour a happening place. Greg Nor-man, the Nicks, Faldo and Price, Ernic Els. Vijay Singh and now New Zealand's Frank Nohilo have given the Tour an international feel by choosing to play the majority of their golf there.

But that hardly makes the Ryder Cup - a match between two teams of 12 players over three

January: 23-26 Johnne Walker Clas-sc (Hope Island, Queensland); 30-2 Feb Hemeken Classic (The Vines, Perth). February: 6-9 South African Open (Glendower, Johannesburg): 13-16 Di-mension Data (Sun City): 20-23 Afried Dunhill South African PGA chempi-onship (Hougmon, Johannesburg): 27-2 Mar Dubar Desert Classic (Emirates

March: 6-9 Moroccan Open (Rabat); 13-16 Portuguese Open (Arocira); 20-23 Turespaña Masters Maspalomas); 27-30 Madeira Island Open (Campo de Golfe).

April: 3-6 To be announced; 10-13 US MASTERS (Augusta, Georgia); 17-20 To Be Arranged; 24-27 Peugeot Spanish Open (La Moraldja 2, Medrid). Open (La Moraleja 2, Madrid),
May: 1-4 Italian Open (Garda Golf, Mitan); 8-11. Benson and Hedges International Open (The Oxfordshire,
Thame); 15-18 Alamo English Open
(Harbury Marxor); 19-20 Andersen Consulting European Championship (The
Bucktraftamshire); 23-28 Volvo PGA
championship (Wentworth); 29-1 June
Deutsche Bank Open-TPC of Europe
(TBA).

June: 5-8 Staley Hall Northumberland Challenge (Staley Hall, Hasham); 12-15 US OPEN (Congressona), Bethesda, Mayland); 12-15 TBA; 19-22 Volko Ger-man Open (Schloss Nippenburg, Stuttgart); 26-29 Peugeot French Open (National, Paris). July: 3-6 hish Open (Druids Glen, Co

away - a foregone conclusion.

Since the Great Britain and ireland team gave way to Europe in 1979, the biennial match has not been about which tour is the stronger on either side of the Atlantic. The Americans found this out the hard way when they lost in '85 and '87; the Europeans could not take advantage of a stagnating US Tour in '91 and '93.

"It is one thing to look at names on paper," said Bernhard Langer, "it's another to be out on the golf course. They said that the Americans were stronger on paper last time, and that we were the underdogs, but we won.

If it is asking too much for Seve Ballesteros 10 concen-trate on his Ryder Cup cap-taincy duties and regain the highest form, or for Jose-Maria Olazabal's rheumatoid arthritis to go into remission enough for him to resume playing. Langer is free of the mjuries that led to his loss of form last year.

The hroomhandle putter with which he swept 10 victory in Hong Kong to close his sea-

EUROPEAN TOUR ITINERARY

Wicklowi; 10-12 Loch Lomond World In-vitational (Loch Lomond); 17-20 OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP (Royal Troon); 24-27 Dutch Open (Hiversumsche); 31-Aug 3 Scandmavian Masters (Melmo). Scardinavian Massers (Mainto).

August: 7-10 Chemepol Trophy Czech
Open (Prague Karlstein); 14-17 US PGA
CHAMPIONSHIP (Wingsel Foot, New
York); 14-17 TBA; 21-24 Smarkt European Open (The K Club, Dublin); 2831 BMW International Open (Golf Platz,
Munich).

Munich).
September: 4-7 Canon European Masters (Crans-sur-Sierre); 11-14 Lancome
Trophy (St Nom ta Bretische, Paris); 1821 One 2 One British Massers (Forest
of Arden); 26-28 RYDER CUP by Johnne Walter (Veldenrama, Spain).
October: 2-5 Linde German Masters
(Motzaner See, Berlin); 9-12 "Gopta
World Matsh, Blau champlonshin (Mert.) Modd Match Play champlonship (Went-worth), Open Novotel Perner (Medoc, Bor-deaux); 16-19 "Affred Dunhill Cup (St Andrews); 22-26 Ch Pro-Am (La Morale-ja 1 and 2); 30-2 Nov Volvo Mestiers. (Monte Castillo).

November: 6-9 *Sarazen World Open-(Chateau Elan, Atlanta); 20-23 *World Cup of Golf (Kitiwah Island, South Car-

January 1998: 3-4 *Andersen Con-sulting World Championship (Grey Hawk,

Catalan Open, Austrian Open.

days and still some eight months son will remain in the bag. which turned up yesterday after being lost for 24 hours in transit from Los Angeles. Cur-rently 36th on the Cup points list, Langer, who has played on eight European teams, knows that gaining selection again is not something to be taken for granted. "No, definitely not," he "It is getting harder to make the team every two years. There are now more younger, stronger players. The depth and strength of the European Tour is constantly improving. Ten to 15 years ago, we had four, six, eight really good players but the bottom of the list was weak. Now

it is hard to get in the team." Only Faldo can rely on one of the two wild card picks, as he has done on three of the last four occasions, when Ballesteros makes his selections on 1 September. He has arrived here af-ter a week's fishing in New Zealand with Greg Turner, hut will not play on the European Tour again until after the US Open. Then it is likely to be the Irish Open and the Loch Lomond World Invitational in July leading up to the Open at Royal Troon. A major championship win is the only way of satisfying his captain's request for the Englishman to qualify au-

tomatically. If there is a reliance on the familiar names it is because only three of the 11 Europeans who have made their Cup debuts in the Nineties have played more than once. It is time for players like Paul Broadhurst and Peter Baker to put in a repeat performance to go alongside possible newcomers such as Darren Clarke and Lee Westwood.

Similarly, the Tour has had 21 first-time winners in the last two years, some of whom may show that they can become multiple winners. The turnover of venues has also been high recently. Collingtree Park has suffered the inevitable consequence for its greens fiasco last summer and the One 2 One British Masters, the send-off event before the Ryder Cup at Valderrama, moves to the Forest of Arden.



be home to the Alamo English Open which now switches to Hanbury Manor in Hertfordshire. The list of sites has taken time to emerge as they have heen regularly reappraised. There should be no complaints - a dangerous statement to make when concerned with professional golfers - about Hope Island, where Faldo and

Langer will be joined by Colin Montgomerie, Ian Woosnam. Els, Singh and John Daly.

Peter Thomson. "You can see it's been designed by an ex-Open champion," Montgomerie said. "ft was not a question of the Tour getting back on track after last year, but there were a couple of hiccups. The Tour has admitted there were mistakes and we don't want any more. We must look for positives and one of them is coming down here to play quality courses like this week and next week in Perth."

Mined out of Queensland's Montgomerie, complete with is still a tag the Scot will b Gold Coast, it was designed by a specially designed shaft in his bent ou losing this year.

Great Big Bertha driver that he picked up at the Callaway factory after winning the Million Dollar in December, remains the man to beat on the money list. Montgomerie will play eight or nine times in America, but has still scheduled 18 events in an attempt to win a fifth Order of Merit title.

"As for being the best player not to have won a major yet," Montgomery said, "it's hetter than being the second best." It is still a tag the Scot will be hell-

BAF has to work for its Lottery cash

Athletics

MIKE ROWBOTTOM

British athletics, which will submit a hid this week for an anmual lottery grant of £5.5m, may be forced to put its house in order before becoming eligible for the new funding.

When Peter Radford resigned as the British Athletic Federation's executive chairman on Saturday, he cited the constraints imposed upon the sport's professional administrators by its unwieldy committee system and the divergent aims of a Council nearly 60 strong.

Radford became the fourth chief executive to have depart-ed within the last 15 years, causing many in the sport to regard the joh as a poisoned chalice. But Lottery Fund officials administering the newly insti-tuted World Class Performance programme - which will provide more than £40m of extra funding for sporting bodies and competitors in its first year - are insistent that applying sports should streamline their man-agement structures. And there have been strong hints in Sports Council circles that British athletics, among other sports, has urgent work to do.

If we are committing ourselves to giving out significant sums of public money, we have got the absolute right to ask for reassurance that the management structure of a sport is fit for the purpose," said Roy Headey, of the Lottery Unit.

We have to be sure the decision-making process is fast enough and informed enough. If we discover a large council or committee which is unwieldy. and contains people who are not best placed to make decisions which move a sport in the right direction, we would be within our rights to say we would only invest on an interim basis until weaknesses in the structure were sorted out."

All sports receiving grants will calculation and undergo a rigorous examination by independent auditors before at 50 per cent.

lottery money is transferred, and there will be regular checks once the funding is established. If a team seconded from the National Audit Office encounters a problem, then grants will be made provisional for a year. Failure to deal with the problem could see funding cut off completely. The BAF is holding an emer-

gency meeting this week in the wake of Radford's resignation. The names of several possible successors have been floated, including Sebastian Coe, David Moorcroft, Mike Whittingham and Brendan Foster. The latter characterised British athletics top joh this week as one he would not wish on his worst enemy. Perhaps the financial leverage the Sports Council can hring to bear at this critical point in British sports funding will alter that position.

Malcolm Arnold, the BAF chief coach who is masterminding a bid which has been well received in draft form, rcmained confident yesterday that Radford's imminent departure would not deter the UK Sports

Council from acceptance.

He is seeking £4m this year to transform Britain's coaching programme and approximately 5m of subsistence funding on behalf of 310 competitors from across the athletic disciplines. If Arnold's hopes are fulfilled.

the sport will be able to establish a support system to match that in place in many other countries throughout Europe. Arnold foresees a new structure which would boost the number of full time coaches from 10 to 35. So far, three sports - swimming,

netball and rowing - have submitted their detailed bids to the UK Sports Council, which hopes to make the first of its subsistence grants to competitors in March. All grants will be means tested, with money being deducted off basic grants when the competitors' income surpasses £28,000 per annum. However, prize-money up to £28,000 will not be part of that calculation and any money from sponsorship will only be assessed

Taylor in the firing line

tain is under increasing pressure to justify his position, the selectors are criticised for their inconsistency, the new coach is on the defensive and the very structure of domestic cricket is being reviewed.

The scenario is strikingly familiar but the captain in question is Mark Taylor, rather than Mike Atherton, the coach Geoff Marsh not David Lloyd, the first-class compension the Sheffield Shield and the team the supposedly mighty, confident Australia. If Englishmen have become as

accustomed and as adept at dis-cussing the state of their cricket team as their equally erratic weather, Australians have taken the consistency of both for granted. When one deviates from the norm it is the signal for soulsearching from press and public.

A month ago, after the West Indies had been convincingly beaten in the first two Tests and World Series one day internationals, the fear was that a series marketed as "The Decider", following Australia's 2-1 triumph in the Caribbean in 1995, had been embarrassingly transformed into what headline writers took to terming "The One-Sider".

That now has a hollow ring to it as the sides prepare for the fourth Test which starts in Adclaide on Saturday. The West In-

sudden state of crisis affecting Australian cricket

Melbourge in three days and, with Curtly Amhrose and Brian Lara returning to form they reeled off eight successive victories after losing seven straight. Momentum has heen lost

feats, including the World Series final against Pakistan, hut that should not count against them in Adelaide. The Australians also succumbed to a vouthful, enthusiastic Pakistan team in the World Series and, for the first time in 18 years, they failed to qualify for the final, a shattering blow to both board treasury and team morale.

Australia have now lost 11 of their last 14 one-day internationals. That would be an unacceptable ratio for England, and far less for an Australian public led to believe media hype that its team were world champions in everything but official title.

again with three successive dc-

Taylor is a bold and imagi-native captain but, as a lefthanded opener, his form this season has been so shocking that he considered dropping out of the one-day series to return to the Sheffield Shield. Predictably, Taylor's men have stuck by their leader. "He brings

The national team have lost their last five matches, the caperan of 84 Tests, said. "He's got the respect of all the players.

Yet if Taylor continues to fail in the final two Tests against the West Indies and, more especially, if Australia lose both and, with them, the cherished Frank Wortell Trophy, his appointment for the tour of South Africa that follows and the Ashes series in England would be in jeopardy.

The absence of the top players on international duty diminishes the quality of the Sheffield Shield, the nursery for the Test team and, significantly, no young batsman has recently established himself in the team. The Victorian Cricket Association has prepared a paper recommending changes that would streamline the Shield by reducing the number of matches. But support has been minimal even though there is a growing feeling that change is needed.

The former captain Allan Border has called the furore wide of the mark". "Any of the 66 from-line players in the Shield could play a Test match or a oneday international and not disgrace themselves," he said. So far this season, Australia have used 19 and not all have measured up to Border's assessment. Australian cricket suddenly does not look as healthy as it did at the start of the season.

Campbell hits out at Rugby Union Lloyd again

The Zimhabwe captain, Alistair Campbell, took another verbal swipe at the England coach, David Lloyd, when his team arrived in Johannesburg yesterday for a triangular one-day series against South Africa and India. Campbell, clearly still niggled

by Lloyd's comments that England had "murdered" Zimbabwe in last month's drawn second Test in Bulawayo, said: "I think we've improved a lot over the last 12 months. We had a tough apprenticeship in the subconn nent and that stood us in good stead against England.

"All this 'We murdered them and they know it business is really ridiculous coming from a grown man. At the end of the day we drew the Test series and won the one-dayers 3-0. "We've heard a lot about how

badly they played and about how they've been called the worst side to leave England's shores but they just didn't want to give us credit for playing good cricket. "We intend to go out and play

positive cricket against India and South Africa. If we do that then there is no reason why we can't do very well again, and all the guys know that."
Zimbabwe play one warm up-

match today under floodlights

against North West in Fochville. Their first match in the tournament is against South Africa at Centurion Park on Saturday. Meanwhile, in Auckland Dominic Cork reported no real change to his back complaint. But England's No 1 bowler will have no idea about how the injury is progressing until he is given a fitness test hy the physiotherapist Wane Morton. who said Cork was feeling more

comfortable and was continuing to have treatment on what is feared to be torn tissue. England travelled from Hamilton to Auckland vesterday hut otherwise had a day off following their two-and-a-half day

trouncing of Northern Districts. Cork will warm up with the England squad when they gather for net practice in Auckland this morning - and it will not be until then that he will know whether he has a chance of playing in Friday's first Test against New Zealand. The initial diagnosis of Cork's back pain was that it seemed serious, but he is re-

fusing to be pessimistic. "I'm feeling OK today, but at the moment all I can do is wait and see how I am at practice."

McGeechan seeks free-thinkers Committee, expects the cost of positive and not stay in their fit and playing for Scotland bethe trip to top £1m, with some shells. We also need men with cause he's one player with ex-

CHRIS HEWETT

Tours of South Africa tend to be fiery affairs - hattle-scarred players with bruised knuckles and split eyelids talk euphemistically about the "physical" nature of Springbok rugby -so it is entirely appropriate that this summer's Lions party should be sponsored by a life assurance company. Scottish Provident have recognised that professionalism is here to stay by pumping £750,000 into the three-Test, 13-match campaign. With the South Africans also

putting their hands in their pockets, it will be the most nakedly commercial tour in the 109-year history of the Lions; indeed, Ray Williams, chairman of

squad, who will be paid on a flatrate basis irrespective of Test appearances or long injury lay-offs.

Still, the players will earn their money; Ian McGeechan, the Northampton strategist who will be coaching a Lions party for the third successive tour, believes the current South African side to be stronger than the 1995 World Cupwirning side. "I'm treating the programme as though we're playing six Five Nations matches, four Super-12 games and three World

Cup finals," he said yesterday. I have some idea of the type of player I want to take and it could well be that we have to look outside the current Five Nations selections. There is a way to play South Africa and we need free-thinkers who will be pressure they will face will be greater than any other pressure they ever experience. Even though Rob Wainwright, the Scottish captain and early

favourite to skipper the Lions, was present at yesterday's sponsorship announcement at the South African High Commission in Trafalgar Square, Fran Cotton, the tour manager, was adamant his selection panel was not even close to making up its mind on the leadership issue. He did reveal an initial squad of 60 would be announced next month, from which most, if not all, the tourists would be drawn.

We'll meet on 9 February to out some certainties down on paper," the former Lions prop

£400,000 going to the 35-strong a hard mental edge because the perience as an international captain. But our choice of leader may possibly be someone who is not captain of his country: the chief criteria are that he can guarantee his Test place and command the respect of the squad."

Cotton said the selectors would take "three or four" proven international goalkickers to Johannesburg in May. Given that Neil Jenkins, the Welsh outsidehalf turned full-back, is one of the very British players who fall into that category, it will be a surprise if he is left back home in Pontypridd. And he was in Trafalgar guare yesterday, too.

Rory Underwood has shaken off the challenge of teenage wing Leon Lloyd and secured a place in Leicester's European Cup final said. "It's good to see Rob back side against Brive on Saturday.

Wigan reject Sevens offer Rugby League "In many ways we regret not

Wigan have turned down an invitation to defend their title at the Middlesex Sevens this

last season, but they feel that

year, writes Dave Hadfield. The first rugby league club to compete in the tournament struck a propaganda hlow for the code by heating all-comers

being able to return to Twickenham," said the Wigan chairman. Jack Rohinson, "but we are faced this year with the most intense programme and are determined to go all out to win the Super League Champi-

onship."
Halifax, whose Super League match against Wigan would have been postponed, had already registered a protest against the holders taking part.

FAI HARP NATIONAL LEAGUE Premier DI-

FAI HARP NATIONAL LEAGUE Premier Di-vision: Horne Farm Eventon v Sigo Rovers. PONTRNS LEAGUE Premier Division: Birm-ingham v Blackburn (7.15); Leeds v Botton (7.0); Farst Division: Bleckbool v Sheff Utd (7.0); Mediestrough v Mest Brom (7.0); Second Division: Wretham v Barnsley (7.0) York v Mansfeld (7.0). Third Division: Dar-lerzon v Chesterfield (7.0): Donesser v Im-

Ingion v Chesterfield (7.0); Doncaster v Lin-coin (7.0); Rochdale v Bury (7.0); Scunthorpe

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION First Division; Britisl City v Bourremouth; Charl-ton v (pswich 12.0); Oxford Utd v Bristof Rovers; Portstributh v Southempton (7.0)

v Wigger (7.0).

their commitments are too beavy this time. TODAY'S FIXTURES

PRESS AND JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Huntly v Fraserburgh. Football 7.30 unless stated

INTERNATIONAL MATCHES (at Palermo) (at Brade) FA CHALLENGE CUP THIRD ROUND REPLAYS

COCA-COLA CUP QUARTER-FINALS Stockport v Southampton (7.45) NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE Stoke v Norwich (7.45)...

SCOTTISH LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION SECOND DIVISION Hazzilton v Oueen of Souti THIRD DIVISION Inversess CT v Queen's Park

PREMOLY: Cabic v Bayern Munich (7.30). DR MARTENS CUP Third round: Baldock Town v Torbridge: Salisbury v Weymouth. NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST First Division Cup second round: Eases of Utily Borrowsh r. President's Cup fourth round: Brigg Town Ossett Town; Setby Town v Pontetract Col. WSON WESSEX LEAGUE First Division: Division South Western League: SEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Divi-

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE First Disasion: Shappey United v Hythe United. UNIVET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First DI-vision: Three Bridges v Arthods.

FA YOUTH CUP Third Round: Crystal Palace v West Ham tet Plough Lane). Rugby Union (7.30 unless stated) SWALEC CLIP Fifth round: Blackwood v Hir-INSURANCE CORPORATION LEAGUE Sec-ond Division: Wanderers v Clonicus (7.0)

HART GILNORE FOUR COUNTIES CHAMP PIONSHIP: Shropshire v Grazier Birmingten CITE MATCHES: Moseley v Loughborough Basketball BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Manchester Gants Criester Jets (7.0). 7-UP TROPHY Quarter-finals second leg: Lebester Riders v Birmingtom Butlets (8.0); Sheffield Starks v Worthing Boors (7.30),

Other sports BOWLS: World Indoor Championships (Pre

Russian couple in control Ice Skating

Russia's Olympic champions. Oksana Gritschuk and Yevgeny Platov, skated into the lead of the ice dance at the European Figure Skating Championships in Paris yesterday.

Russian and French competitors dominated the event, sharing the top five positions. Angelika Krylova and Oleg Ovsiannikov, of Russia, were

late additions to the Russian team after missing their national

second with France's Marina Anissina and Gwendel Peizerin

Gritschuk and Platov were

championships in December.
With tomorrow's original dance and the free dance on Friday to come, the British pairing of Marika Humphreys and Phillip Askew are well down the field in equal 13th

WEEKEND POOLS FORECAST FA Cup fourth round

Nationwide Football League First Division Also playing (not on coupon Bromwich; Oldham v Hudder

Second Division
10 Backpool v Mithell
11 Burnley v Preston..... Mee playing (not on ocus Third Division

GM Vatariali Conference 23 Atmohrm v Hayes 24 Famborough v Russian

UniBond League Premier Division

Dr Martens League enneuts Scottish Cup Third Round

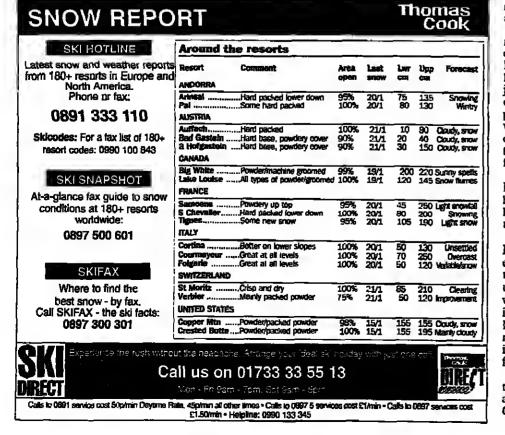
Scottish League Scottish Second Division

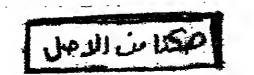


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Toshack

targeted

by club

inquiry

Deportivo La Coruoa have

opened disciplinary proceeding

against their manager, John Toshack, with the Welshman

accused of insulting fans who

criticised him for substituting

the midfielder Rivaldo against

"Although [people] were very angry in the stadium, the

coach's attitude cannot be for-

given and must be criticised."

said the Deportivo president,

Augusto Lendoiro, who had tried to calm his players and

he was not considering resign-

ing and that he hoped the hear-ings would clarify the incident. "My insults and gestures were

aimed unly and exclusively at a

section of the crowd that feels

that I am the only one to blame

fur what happens at the club."

he said. "I've put up with insults

The incidents are the latest

in a series of clashes between

Toshack and the Riazor crowd

since his arrival at the club last

season. Fans were especially in-censed by his decision to drop

Bebeto, and hlamed Toshack for

the striker's subsequent move

back to Brazil.

Toshack insisted yesterday

coach at half-time.

Athletic Bilbao on Sunday.

VUARY 1997 • THE INDEPENDE

there will be regular checking the funding is established team seconded from the Ma team seconds no more Ne Audit Office encounter ap lem, then grants will be make hich will subek for an antem, then grants win to make visional for a year. Failure or with the problem muld see at of £5.5m, Put its house ecoming cliing out off completely ing out off completel.

The BAF is hidding and gency meeting this weeks wake of Radford's resign.

The names of several pay successors have been finder aluding Schastlan Country. funding. Hora resigned detic Federachairman on ed the concluding Schastian Coch Mooreroft, Mike Whings and Brendan Foder Hick on the sport's intralians by its ons make 22 enaracterised British add s of a Council top job this week at inwould not up him his way. at the fourth emy. Perhaps the fine thas a departleverage the Spotte Lie 351 15 years. can bring to bear at there he sport to repoint in Bruish Jemslin ×asonuá cha)will eiter that position Fund officials Malcolm Arnold, the BERLY ESTI-

chief chach who is me Perturmance minding a hid which her, ch will philade well recent dandranting e wara randmained consident (exemp raidius and Radford's confinential ilitsi yenr – nre would not determine the Prince sports Council train marplant at their man-House states the bearing Whi And there to transferm Eman age hints in Sport-Programme, and appropri at British ath-KIT STORY, DES Seekalt of Proceedings and personally ware war weather the charactering It American hoperating 301 - politicars to the first of the special properties right to a law to a support of stam to make

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Turd Road

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Fhas to Comyn on trail of silver suedehead silver suedehead

ex-Villa man with an eye on an Italian's shirt in the fourth round

■he last thing Andy Comyn wants to see during Hed-nesturd Town's FA Cup tie at Middleshrough on Saturday is a silver suedehead disappearing beneath a red shirt. If that happens, it will probably mean

Fahrizio Ravanelli has scored. The moment the fourthround match is over it will be a different matter. Comyn, the Staffordshire club's 28-yearold central defender, hopes to have the shirt off Ravanelli's back. There is going to be "an almighty scramble", he pre-dicts, to swap synthetic fibres with the troubled White Feath-

er and Boro's Brazilians, Juninho and Emerson. Perhaps uniquely for a Vauxhall Conference part-timer, Comyn could afford to let his colleagues have first go at the post-match ritual. Just over six years ago, after helping Aston Villa 10 defeat Internazionale in the first leg of a Uefa Cup tie, he traded tops with Ravanelli's

fellow Italian international

Aldo Serena. Until Hednesford knocked Blackpool and York off the Wembley trail, victory over an Inter side which also included Jürgen Kliosmann was the high point in Comyn's roller-coaster career. It began with Manchester United, late in Ron Atkioson's reign. A back injury and a physics degree forced him to forgu the possibility of be-coming ooe of Alex Ferguson's fledglings, just as well since he supports City.

He was with the nowdefunct Alvechurch when Graham Taylur took him to Villa. Four days later, Comyo was told Chris Price was unfit. He would be at right-back the next oight. Against Liverpool.

Marking John Barnes. "My first thought was 'Oh no'," he ad-mitted, "followed by 'Oh great'. "Barnes turned me inside out to score after 20 minutes, but he was doing that to the best players at that time. I expected them to keep giving him the ball, but they didn't. I did all right in

the last 70 minutes and we gut a draw." Injury to Paul McGrath prompted Taylur's successor, Jo Venglos, to briog Comyn in against Inter. "We won 2-0 and I had a five-game run when we didn't concede a goal, but afterwards I was out," he reealled, "In other circumstances I'd have been knocking on the

manager's door, but Paul was a legend at Villa." Comyn was a substitute when Villa succumhed 3-0 in Milan. "I remember playing five-a-side on the San Siro pitch the night before and looking up at these stands which seemed to go on forever. It was a bit differeot to Hedocsford! An huur before kick-off we were warming up and there were already 40,000 there. The atmosphere was intimidatiog, but brilliant."

After two £200,000 moves, to

Derby and Plymouth respec-

Comyn impressed in three First Division games on trial, only to

opt for non-League football. The attraction was the opportunity to combine a secure career in accountancy - he is learning the trade in the practice run by Hednesford's manuger, John Baldwin - with playing at what Comyn calls "a good standard". He explained: My family thought ! was crazy

but the chance may not have been there when I was 32. "I'm enjoying my football mure now. Because it's not my full-time job it's not on my mind cunstantly. As a professional, if you make a mistake it preys on your mind until the next game. The manager usually says something to you and

it'll be pored over in the media. which can get you down There are times when you could do with a break for a few days, but you hardly ever get one. Now I might he stuck behind a desk for a week and the football is a funtastic release,

something tu look forward tu like I did as a kid. 'Who's to say I'd Itave heen in the Alhiun team anyway? When they played Wulves the other week I thought: 'I'd like tu have been involved in that', Then again they'd love to be

playing in the fourth round." The Cup, in which the Pitmen have progressed from the first qualifying round in Septemher, was the last thing on tively, came an offer from West Bromwich Alhion last summer. Comyn's mind when he arrived

Winning over Italy's pas-

sionate support is will be high

on Maldini's agenda. Gian-

franco Zola, the Italy forward

now at Chelsea, said: "One of



Shirt and Cup tie: Andy Comyn is hoping to add Fabrizio Ravanelli's shirt to his trophles at Keys Park. And if anyone had told him he would face another Italian international forward before the season was out, he

might have been inclined to call the men in white coats. "Ravanelli's ideal for British football - big, powerful, scores goals, holds the hall up well but I've been up against the likes of lao Wright, so I won't be

true of all the lads. "With Boro being bottom uf

overawed. I'm sure that'll be

how many people are going to be there. Their fans might think: 'We'll save our money for a later round', which could work in

our favour. For us, it Il be a great atmosphere come what may, "Bryan Robson saw us beal York and knows we're no mugs, hut they beat Chester 6-0 in the last round, so with luck they'll be over-coofident. Wheo you

hard to change," Comyn dismisses the idea that Hednesford are in danger

start a match like that, it can be

of regarding the trip to the Riverside Stadium as simply a ultimate role model during his lucrative day out. "We had York time at Old Trafford.

with Boro. Our chances of winning may be remote but we'll try to make it hard for them," As if the occasion were not special ecough, the competi-

tion's codless capacity for un-

expected reunions means that

Comyn will be at the heart of

Parry rejects imports claims

watched three times. The reports

were spot-on and so were our

tactics. We've done the same

the Boro manager, who was the

He recounts how Robson. then captain of cluh and country, once brought a box full of T-shirts from a kit manufacturer into the dressing-room and invited the starstruck appreotices to help themselves. The rush to Ravanelli could be rather more competitive, but Comyn, who may spend the afternoon up close and per-

Photograph: Peter Jav

For his part, Toshack has blamed Lendoiro for buying the wrong players and not spending enuugh on training facilities. Earlier this year he said he did nut expect to continue at the cluh when his contract expires in June, leading to speculation he may return to Britain.

Supporters replied swiftly by daubing the Riazor ground in acti-Toshack graffiu. Toshack has also come uoder fire from Rafael Martin Vazquez. The former Spanish international midfielder is ooe uf many players in Deportivo's gifted squad who believes he is not selected

often eoough.

In Belgium, the national coach, Wilfried Van Moer, has been sacked after nine months in charge and replaced by Georges Leekens, who leaves the First Division leaders Mouscron.

Van Moer was dismissed principally because of Belgium's 3-0 home defeat by the Netherlands in a World Cup qualifier last month and also because of communication problems with players and the media. Van Moer was initially praised for his no-consense approach hut was later criticised for what was per-"The situation on foreign im- Scots, Irish and Welsh players as ceived as a surly attitude to-

McCarthy responds to Hamilton's call qualifier against England at Wembley on 12 February. McCarthy, who has only two caps, has been a receot transfirm favourite with the fans in

Jon McCarthy has been drafted intn Northern Ireland's depleted squad for today's friendly math against Italy in Palermo.

The national manager, Bryan Hamilton, asked the Port Vale player to fly out to Sicily yesterday morning, after changing his mind about calling for reinforcements in the absence of such leading players as Kel-th Gillespie and Ned Lennon.

After examining my options I decided I could do with a lit-tle hit of extra cover after all," said Hamilton, whose squad trained for the first time vesterday after their midnight only chance to assess his playarrival in Mondello.

LEICESTER

1.00: 1. HURDANTE (A P McCoy) 10-1; 2. Montmore Towers 5-2: 3. Pentose Lad 15-2, 12 ran, 10-11 fav Eagles Rest (6th).

15-2. 12 ran. 10-11 fav Eagles Rest (6th). 9, Ind. 16 Baidingh. Toter £10-90; £1-90, £1-50, £1-90. Dual Forecast: £15-90. Computer Streight Forecast: £32-60. Ind. £25-10. Non Rumner: Homest Dave.

1.30: 1. SPECIAL BEAT (Nr C Vigors) 8-1; 2. Editedon Beau 5-2 co fan; 3. Symptomy's Son 7-1. 13 ran. 5-2 co fan; 3/symptomy's Son 7-1. 13 ran. 5-2 co fan; 3/symptomy's Son 7-1. 13 ran. 5-2 co fan; 3/symptomy's Son 7-1. 13 ran. 5-1 co fan; 3/symptomy's Son 7-1. 13 ran. 5-1 co fan; 3/symptomy's Son 7-1. 13 ran. 5-2 co fan; 3/symptomy's Son 7-1. 13 ran. 5-2 co fan; 3/symptomy's Son 7-1. Tan. 5-2 co fan; 3/symptomy's Son 7-1. Tan. 5-2 co fan; 3/symptomy's Son 7-1. Son 5-2 co fan;

DF: £30.90, CSF: £28.71. Inot £40.50. 2.00: 1.FLEET CADET (G Supple) 5-4 tay. 2. Indian Temple 9-1; 3. Silghtly Special 12:1.11 ran. 4.2%. (M Ppc). Tote: £2.50: £1.30. £1.20. £2.20. DF: £17.10. CSF: £13.16. Theast £103.84. Ino: £42.20. Non

Runner: Scottish Wedding. 2.30: 1. BENDOR MARK (A P McCoy) 10-

2.30: 1. BENDOR MARK (A P McCoy) 10-1; 2. Yeoman Warrior 16.1; 3. Call Me River 2.1 lay; 4. Minestro Paul 8-1. 37 ran. 2. 20 IM Wilkinson), Tota: £10.30; £3.00, £3.10, £1.50, £2.30. DF; £105.40, CSF; £164.89, Fincas: £425.92. The: £54.60, Non Runner: Royal Saxon.
3.00: 1. HENRIESTIA HOWARD (6 Hogan) 14-1; 2. Issneno 30-1; 3. Silver Standard 10-1; 4. Cassio's Boy 10-1, 17 ran. 4-1 p. Issneno 30-1; 5. Euloy, 17. 2. (Mrs D Haine; Tota: £71.50; £3.40, £3.50, £2.20, £4.10. DF; £146.50, CSF; £151.32. Treas: £1,392; 14. The: £223.00.

3.30: 1. SLINGSBY (A Thornton) 3-1; 2.

Uncle Algy 20-1; 3. Super Ritchart 20-1. 10 ran. 11-8 fav Three Philosophers (fell), 7. 3. (N Gaselee), Totat £3.10; £1.80, £4.30, £3.20, DF: £53.40, CSF: £51.17, Trio:

150.20.
4.00: 1. SANMARTINO (A Magure) 8-15 far; 2. High in The Clouds 20-1: 3. Moons: 9-4. 18 ram. 1-4. 4. (D Nicholson). Tote: £1.60; £1.00, £1.30, £1.10. DF: £49.60. CSF: £19.72. Tro: £32.70. NRs: Circus Star,

Legite & Red Staze.
Placepot: £220.80. Quadpot: £25.50.
Place 8: £258.13. Place 5: £113.61.

INGFIELD

LENGT ICLU

1.20: 1. RAWI (Angela Galimore) 4-1; 2. Allafars Denoer 9-1; 3. Madonne de Rosei 8-1, 11 ran. 100-30 fav Barbason. 4, 1%. (Mas Gay Keflewer). Totar £6.90; £2.00, £3.40, £1.60. DF: £61.90. CSF: £35.76. Incest: £215.87. Tro: £39.60.

1.50: 1. PERSIAN CONQUEST (J Weaver) 13-8; 2. Gatapino evens tar; 3. Zahid 22-1.8 ran. 1 6. IR Ingram). Vote: £2.30; £1.50. DF: £1.50. CSF: £3.31. 2. Our Kenta 100-30; 3. Taonre 11-4. 5 ran. 2-1 fav Messh 100-30; 3. Taonre 11-4. 5 ran. 2-1 fav Messh

100-30; 3. Taome 11 4.5 ren. 2-1 fav Marsh Mangold (4th). 5, 6. (M Johnston). Totar. £4,50; £2,60, £2,00. DF: £4,30. CSF:

£1.392.14, Trio: £223.00.

fer target for the Leicester manager, Martin O'Neill. He was due to be joined on the early morning flight by the West Ham pair Michael Hughes and Keith Rowland after the our first objectives is to get the Londoners' 2-0 Premiership

Hamilton was especially looking forward to their arrival row is the only other Premiergame which represents the new Italian coach Cesare Maldini's ers before the vital World cup Stamford Bridge and become a my English experience."

2.50: 1. QUIET ARCH U Bramball) 4-1 fav

2. Stowarder Stanly 9-2; 3. Sweet Supposin 16-1, 10 ran. 3, 11. (W Mur), Tote; 64.70; £1.20, £2.60, £2.60, £5.60, £57; £20.38, funcas: £23.94, Tric £88.60.
3.20; 1. COUNTLESS TIMES U Wikerson)

3-1 fay, g. Mirror Four Sport 9-1; 3. Sporting Edge 13-2, 3 ran. 6, 1½, (W Mui). Tote: £3.00; £2.20, £3,60, £2.60. DF: £24.70. CSF: £29.48, Tricast £155.11. Yno:

255.00.
3.50: 1. BROUGHTONS FORMULA (D R MCCabe) 10-1; 2. Random (Undaess T-1; 3. Star Rage 9-4 fav. 7 ran. 1, 5. (W Musson). Tota: £12.30; £3.40, £4.50. DF:

£73.70. CSF: £73.86. 4.20: 1. INTO DEBT (A McCanhy) 33-1;

2. Hawaii Storm 100-30 fav; 3. River Seine 9-1, 11 ran, sht-hd, 3/s. (Jornie Poutton). Tote: £62.20; £10.30, £1.10, £3.40. DF; £142.90. CSF: £131.47. Tncast: £790.05.

Place 6: £625.86. Place 5: £117.40.

MARKET RASEN

1.10: 1. NIGHT DANCE (A S Smith 11-2; 2. Toby Brown 20-1; 3. Nexusis Star 33-1, 19 ran. 2-1 to Honeyschoica. 1/s, 11/s, [K Morgan. Texte: £5.10; £2.80, £11.10, £8.60. DF. £111.10. Then not won ippoi of £320.98 to Lingheid 3.40 today). 1.40: 1. CRCIDS LINE (P Cyrberry 2-1 fax; 2. Issaish 16-1; 3. Germally 20-1; 14 ran. 2. 1/s. (M W Esserby). Tota: £3.80; £1.60, £4.50, £5.90. DF; £25.00. CSF: £34.45. Theast: £503.33. Tree £111.60.

14.50, 15.90. DF; 225.00. CSF: £24.45. The cast £503.33. Tro: £111.60.
2.10: 1. BANNFOWN BEL! (D Wakr) 61; 2. Call The Shots 4-1 fav; 3. Change The Reign 14-1. 10 ran. 4, 22. (M Ppp). Total: £9.40; £2.40, £1.80, £3.10. DF: £19.50.
CSF: £29.57. Tricast: £301.96. Tro: £82.30.
2.40: 1. KAMIKAZE (C OTWYE) 8-1; 3.
Monymous 7-2; 3. Mines Optimist: 100-30 fav. 14 ran. 11, 2. (K Bailey). Total: £8.20; £1.40. £1.70. DF: £8.30. CSF: £26.05. Tric: £42.60.
3.10: 1. SPENDID (R Johnson) 9-1; 2. Peace Lord 6-1; 3. Decalables 13-8 fav. 15 ran. 6. 4. (D Nictolson). Total: £11.70; £3.50. £2.30, £1.70. DF: £25.60. CSF: £65.61. Tric: £32.70.

3.40: 1. NETHERBY SAID (R Supple) T-

3.40: 1. NETHERBY SAID (R Supple) T4 fav. 2. Merble Man 9-1; 3. Aljader 3-1.
10 ran. 4. 2. (P Beaumont). Tetts: £2.80;
£1.20. £2.50. £1.30. DF: £17.00. CSF:
£18.20. Trocst: £44.16. Trio: £13.10.
4.10: 1. INVERCARBILL (D Meman) 101; 2. Noble Tom 16-1; 3. Aljannde 8-1. 15
ran. 7-4 fav Jessica One (4th. 7. 17». (C
Mann). Totte: £22.60: £4.70, £4.20, £2.70.
DF: £156.60. CSF: £182.08. NR; Sursword.
Jackmer: £9.53.80. (sat. won. pool of

1.10: 1. NIGHT DANCE (A S Smith! 11

Tno: £83.50.

RACING RESULTS

supporters closer to the national team. There has not been a defeat against Leeds. peaceful climate between us and the players have felt it. Our since Arsenal's Stephen Mor- main task is to satisfy the fans. "First of all we must play for ship player io his squad for the them, then fur ourselves. We

must make the people love the

Tommi Makinen, the world

champion, took command in the

Moote Carlo Rally yesterday as

Brilliant driving on wet, sometimes icy, conditions in the

Vercors mountains coabled the

Finn to take first place from the

overnight leader, Carlos Sainz

of Spain. After four of the

penultimate day's six timed

stages, Makinen, in a Mitsubishi

Lancer, was 13 seconds ahead

Despite forcing a 68-68 draw in the second leg of their tic against Autodor Saratov in

Moscow last night, London

Towers failed to reach the last

16 of the European Cup by just

five points on aggregate, writes

Towers held a five-point lead

at 27-22, but they paid a high

price for a technical foul against Danny Lewis. who was benched

for the rest of the period, al-

lowing Saratov to lead 35-34 at

of Sainz's Ford Escort.

Basketball

Richard Taylor.

the break.

Colin McRae crashed out.

a few months. He is completely at ease in his new surround-ings, unlike his Italian team-mate Gianluca Vialli.

Vialli, however, has pledged his future to Chelsea and Zola said: "It is not a stormy relationship hetween Luca and Ruud Gullit. I have never seen them argue. Certainly Luca is not happy on the bench but no player in his position would be." Zola added: "I like Loodon.

I really can live a life as a oormal person with my family. My relationship with the fans is one Zola has settled in quickly at of the most pleasing things in

the road again in yesterday's 33-

kilometre first stage from St Jean

en Royans to La Chapelle eo

Vercors. Britain's 1995 world

champioo broke the rear left

suspension and damaged the

steeriog of his Subaru Impreza.

He finished the stage hut was

more than 24 minutes behind his

team-mate, Piero Liatti of Italy.

"We hit a patch of ice oo my

who recorded the best time.

side and weot off into the snow

bank," McRae said, "We lost of

a lot of time to get the car out. We managed to finish the stage

week's first leg at Wembley, were 60-50 down before an in-

spired 15-3 run capped by a Paul

Deppisch three-pointer and a

dunk from Joe Hooks put them

Gintaras Einikis scored a

basket and a free throw to put

Saratov one point ahead on the

night and six clear on aggregate, hut veteran Alan Cunningham

seconds on the clock, putting

Loodon another three-pointer

away from forcing overtime.

Sergei Maltsev, who scored two

free throws after being fouled to

However, they were denied by

65-63 ahead.

McRae out of the race

McRae, who had dropped to fourth place overall after hitting a snowdrift oo Monday, went off he to continue."

Russians foil Towers

towards the eod of the first half made a three-pointer with 22

With just five minutes left, tic the game and put Saratov

Rick Parry, chief executive of the Premier League, has denied that the Bosman ruling on freedom of movement for players has damaged the English game.

Parry dismissed reports that the post-Bosman influx of foreign players would undermining the chances of homegrown players making an impact as scaremongering and said that the Premier League had the lowest percentage of foreign imports of any major European

sort of perspective," said Parry, before a meeting of the Uefa

Dick Vermet, who stopped coaching 15 years ago when he resigned from the Philadelphia Eagles in 1982, has ac-

EUROPEAN CUP First round second log-Saratov (Rus) 68 London Towers 68. (Sara-tov win 143-139 on agg.
NBA: Atlanta 106 Charlotte 97; New York 95 Washington 79; Milwaukee 114 Phidadelphia 104; Minnesota 96 San Antorno 83; IA Lak-ers 109 Dallas 99; Denver 132 New Jersey 123; Princerd 89 Detroit 86; Utah 94 Ceve-land 74; Seattle 112 Vancouver 96.

BOWIS

SAGA WORLD PRODOR CHAMPIONSHIPS
(Preston) Pairs first round: R Corse and G
Roberson i Sool bt G Jones and G Williams
(Walest 7-8 1-2 T-5; H Duff and D Gourlay
(Sco) bt C Richmond and T Woods (Sco) 417-3-2-7 T-4 1-5; D Morley and D Roberson [Engl bt G Smith and A Thomson (Engl
7-6-2-7 7-6-6-7 7-6. Singles first round:
G Harlow [Engl bt K Rerlow (Aus.) 1-6-7-5-1-3; R Brassey (NZ) bt 1 Taylor (Aus.) 7-5 T-3
7-2; M McMathon (Aus.) bt K Schochka (NZ)
1-2 T-0 T-0; T Allcock (Engl bt A Welch
(Guernsey) 2-7 7-4 7-0 7-1.

Gloucestershire could now be without

their captain, Courtney Walsh, until mid-June. Walsh, the West Indies captain,

June, warsh, the west moles captain, may be on international duty against in-dia and Sri Lanka, who are touring. That would delay the fast bowler's return to Gloucestershire until 17 June, missing almost two momits of the Chempionship

amost two months of the Championship and one-day competition.

The Indian pair Saurav Ganguly and Pankaj Dharmani have been fined 25 per cent of their match fee siter they were charged by the match referee, Barry Jarman, with bringing the game into disrepute and attempting to intrindiate an umpire on the final morning of the drawn Test match against South Africa. Bran Michallan, the South African all-

Bnan McMillan, the South African all-rounder, has been ruled out of the tri-angular one-day series with India and Zimbabwa because of an inflamed

American football

Basketball

Cricket

SPORTING DIGEST

Football

Breakdown of foreign imports in top division of major European countries

Hednesford's efforts to frustrate sonal, should have a head start.

Country Players	Other EU	Non EU	Total
Spain484	33 [6.8%]	107 (22.1%)	140 (28.9
Germany399	93 (23.3%)	16 (4%)	109 (27.3
Portugal502	24 (4.8%)	113 (22.5%)	137 (27.3
Italy508	44 (8.7%)	51 (10%)	95 (18.7
France407	24 (5.9%)	51 (12.5%)	75 (18.4
England740	65 (8,8%)	28 (3.8%)	93 (12.6
working party forme	d after the	in my view, a very	bealthy m
1995 European Co		Parry said. "Out	

erning body was forced to scrap on European Union nationals

Hugo Porfino, the West Ham winger, and the Celtic striker Jorge Cadete are both included in the Portugal squad to face

France in a friendly match in Braga

Kasey Keller, the Leicester City goal-

when European football's gov- tered professionals, we currently have 65 non-UK players from the three plus two ruling on non-the EU and 28 from outside. The lop division.

"We need to get the impact club teams, with no restrictions suggestion of much higher numbers is made by continuing to ports io the Premier League is, if they were foreigners."

wards players and reporters. bt Higonoumi (3-7); Kenlio (4-6) bt Yosanoumi (5-5); Musoyama (4-6) bt Tamakasuga (3-7); Ale-noshima (4-6) bt Acateyuraku (3-7); Kotonishilo (3-7) bt Takononumi (4-6); Musoshimaru (20-0) bt Nyolushuzan (4-6); Wakenotuma (30-0) bt Kot (4-6); Acetono (10-0) bt Talistoriki (7-3); Takanohana (8-2) bt Asanowaka (3-7).

Christian Ziege, the Bayern Munich de-fender, is to join Milan at the end of the season. The 24-year-old had been linked with Arsenal and Liverpool. ice hockey

NRIL: St Lous 6 New York Islanders 4; Washing-ton 3 Boston 2; Buffalo 2 Cheago 1; Hardod 3 Toronto 1; Montreat 4 Detroit 1; Colorado 4 Flon-de 2; Vancouver 8 San Jose 1. Element Chromiters (peerly, Panill, bedeace (after computing videocet); 10 Girschuk and Yikitov (Rus) 0.4; 2 A Krytona and O Osciennicov (Rus) 0.8; 3 M Antesana and 6 Peterat (Pr. 1.2; 4 S Momotte and P Lesenchy (Pr.) 1.6; 5 I Lobactere and I Aestbukh (Rus) 2.0; 5 i Romanous and I Yanosenko (Rus) 2.4; 5 Kritisk: 1.3 M Humphreys and P Askers 5.4. Kasey Keller, the Leicester City goal-keeper, has been named as numer-up in the US Player of the Year awards. The American striker Eric Wynalda won the award for the second time in his career. FA CARLING PERMITTIONNEDE FRST DIVISION SUSPENSIONES Sondings off: D Dublis (Covernty) 3 matches from end of 3 matches. C Blackmore (Middlesbrugh) 1 match from 25 Jan. J. Aldridge (Tranmer) 2 matches from 25 Jan. J. Aldridge (Tranmer) 2 matches from 25 Jan. Aldridge (Tranmer) 2 matches from 25 Jan. Section 12 matches from 25 Jan. Moown Jarsenan 2 matches from 25 Jan. Moown Jarsenan 2 matches from 25 Jan. C Caldensood (Tottenhampton) 2 matches from 26 Jan. R Ready (DPR) 2 matches from 28 Jan. S Meady (DPR) 2 matches from 28 Jan. S Meady (DPR) 2 matches from 28 Jan. 7 Widdrington (Grimsby Town) 2 matches from 25 Jan.

Rugby League Warrington, having lost of Mark Hilton, their prop forward, for most of the com-

ing season, now fear that Deltas Mead, another prop. has tom knee ligaments and could miss the campaign as well. Salesi Finau, normally a centre, will play prop in the fitendly at Halifax on Friday.

Rugby Union

Bath have appointed Tony Swift as their new chief executive in a boardroom new chief executive in a boardroom shake-up that will see the former England wing work alongside Bath's multi-millionaire financial backer Andrew Brownsword and the former chief executive Ed Goodall as part of a three-man management team. Brownsword becomes board chairman, while Goodall's new role will be accounts-CLUB MATCH: RAF 19 Oxford University 15.

Snooker

Doug Mountjoy, the Welshman who re-tires from the pro circuit at the end of the season, was beaten 10-1 in record time by the Scottish teenager Alan Bur-nett in the seventh qualifying round of the Embassy World championship at Blackpool. Burnett's victory was the quick-est of the tournament at 1hr 48min.

NEW YEAR (GRAND TOURNAMENT (Tokyo)
10th day (of 15): Kotoboppu (won 5, lost 5) bt
Chytoniasi (juryo) (2-8); Masugastio (6-4) bt Daxen(6-40); Kotanias (6-4) bt Garyo (6-5): Shidelarus
(7-3) bt Rotoniaszum (6-5): Kotony (6-5): Shidelarus
(7-3) bt Rotoniaszum (6-5): Kotony (6-5): bt Risco
(6-4): Dasen (6-4) bt Manacolas (4-6): Tocheouma (7-3) bt Altolourus (4-6); Algyman (5-5): bt
Hamanochama (4-6): Ognish (3-7) bt Resnosho
(4-5): Kotony (6-5): Tocheou(5-5) bt Kitaliachidoki (4-6): Tocheou(5-5) bt Kitaliachidoki (4-6): Tocheou(5-5)

Tennis

Victimir Savrda, the Czack Davis Cupteam captain, has picked Petr Korda, Bohdon Ulliwach, Jari Novak and Martin Damm to face India in the first round of the World Group from 7-9 February. Leander Paes, the Olympic bonze medalist, joins Mahesh Bhupathi, Sushed Naria and Nitin Kirtane in the India squad. AUSTRALIAN OPEN (Melbourne) Monte single quarter-finalist C Moya (Sp) for MANITILA (Sp) 7-5-6-6-6-6-4.

Men's decides quarter-finalist M WOODFORDE and T WOODBINDEE (Aus) by M DAMM (CS Rep) and A OLIVONSKY Rus 6-3-6-3-6-3: R LEACH and J STARK (LS) by E FERREIRA (SA) and P GAL-BRATH (LS) 7-5-2-6-4-7-5.

Weassen's singles quarter-finalist A COCICER (SA)

and J STARK (US) by E PERFERA (SAI and P GAL-BRATH (US) 7-5 2-6 4-7-6.
Witossen's shugles quartor-finetic A COETZER (SA) It is Po (US) 6-4 6-1. M Perce (Fr) by S APPEL-MANS (Bel) 1-6 6-4 6-4.
Women's doubles quarter-finetic M HIVGS (Sau) and N ZVERZVA (Bela) by V Rusino-Pascusi (Sh) and N S SERZVA (Bela) by V Rusino-Pascusi (Sh) and P Suarez (Arg) 6-3 6-2; L DAVENIPORT and L RYMYOND (US) by C MARTINEZ (SO) and P TARA-BINI (Arg) 6-4 7-6; L NEJAND (Led) and H SUNC-VA (CZ RED) by N NARINITY 3 and N MYAGI Japani 6-2 6-3; GFERNANDEZ (US) and A SANCHEZ VIC-ARIO (So) by N NARINITY (US) and M SOULEGRAF (Ned) 6-4 T-5.
Mizzed doubles second rested: N Brottles and J Eagle (Aus) by A Decheume-Bellery (Fri and J Grabo (US) 6-3 6-0; I Spires (Rom) and D John-son (US) at a Led (So) (So) (So) (So) (So) (So) (Can) 7-6 4-6 6-4.

TODAY'S

NUMBER

35m

The worldwide television au-

urday's Heineken European Cup final between Leicester and Brive at Cardiff Arms Park. Organisers anticipate 86 countries, including India, Saudi Arabia and Russia, will broadcast tha game.

WHEN YOU GIVE UP SMOKING ...

Jackpot: £9,638,80 (part won, pool of £12,354,07 to Lingfield Inday).
Placepot: £69,10, Quadpot: £6.50.
Place &: £85.43. Place &: £11.71. its best to keep your hands busy-

Implanted because of an implanted tendon at the back of his left ankle. He aggravated the problem during the final test against india and is replaced in the 14-man squad by Craig Matthews. Towers, trailing 75-70 from last through 143-138 on aggregate.

I KEEP MINE BUSY BY KNITTING.

1957 RYDER CUP (25-28 Sept, Valderrama, Sotugrande, Sp) Leading qualifying positions: Europe (sending 10 qualify plass the wild cards); 1°C Montgomene (Sco) 287,896; 2°T Born (Deni 189,366; 3°T Born (Deni 189,366; 3°T Born (Deni 189,366; 3°T Grocon (19) 1°T,997; 4°D Clarle (19) 189,366; 3°T Grocon (19) 1°T,997; 4°D Clarle (19) 189,366; 3°T Grocon (19) 1°T,997; 4°T Clarle (19) 189,361; 3°T Grocon (19) 189,361; 3°T Groc

Nicobrevin is available from

How many reasons do you need to try Nicobrevin?

larger 'Boots the Chemists' & local Chemists.

sport

FA Cup Countdown The pit village defender chasing an Italian shirt, page 25



Ravanelli says Boro move was mistake

Football

MARK PIERSON

Fabrizio Ravanelli has admitted for the first time he may have made a mistake in joining Middlesbrough, and his remarks to the Italian media are hound to anger the Premiership's horrom club.

Bryan Robson, the Boro manager, last week ordered the outspoken former Juventus player to stop making critical public com-ments about the club. But Ravanelli continued his tirade against Middlesbrough when he joined the Italian squad in Palermo, preparing for the match with Northern Ireland tonight.

Gianluca Vialli yesterday committed himself to Chelsea but his former team-mate in Turin is still at odds with his club. Ravanelli said: "The difference he was heading towards the end of bis contract at Juventus and had time to think about what he was doing. I only had a few days and my transfer to Middleshrough arrived suddenly. Perhaps if I had seen certain things beforehand I would

have chosen differently. Ravanelli, who was sent off

at the weekend, also criticised Middlesbrough's lack of manpower when the squad was decimated over Christmas by ill-

ness and injury. He said: "We had so few players we bad to field our coach Bryan Robson, who is 40. Can you imagine what would have happened in Italy, for example, Carlo Ancelotti had come on tbe field for Parma?"

Ravanelli has confirmed he will stay at Middlesbrough until the end of the season and he has already been linked to a number of Italian clubs. The chairman, Steve Gibson, is adamant the Italian will see out his contract until 2000, but the relationship between club and

player is clearly breaking down. Ravanelli said: "I am an honest person and it would not be good to go away right now. I still have not chosen a new side. I between me and Vialli was that am happy at the moment with my scoring record of 19 goals in League and cup matches. In England as in Italy work pays off. But in Italy it would be impossible to have three days off

revamped defence.

next five weeks.

manager, today.

day and Southampton.

Bristol City have banned 15

spectators for life for their part

in the rioting after City's 1-1

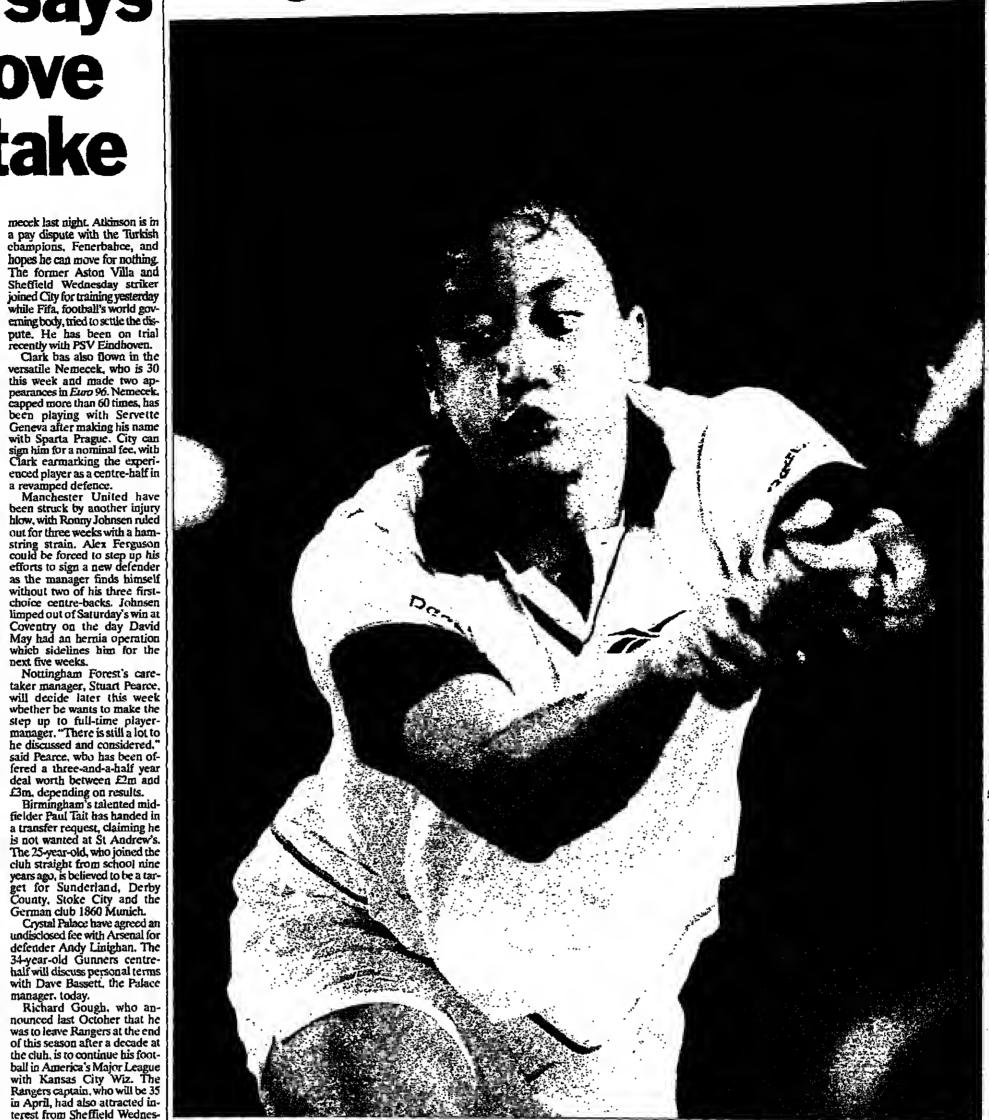
draw with local rivals Bristol

Rovers at Ashton Gate in De-

cember. City will today face a

after losing a match." The Manchester City manag-er. Frank Clark, made a double hid for Dalian Atkinson and the Czech international Vaclav Ne-

Chang makes his charge in Melbourne



Michael Chang, the world No 2, drives a double-handed backhand in his victory over the Chilean Marcelo Rios in Melbourne yesterday, to reach the semifinals of the Australian Open for the third successive year. He meets Spain's Carlos Moya, in the last four. Moya, who beat defending champion Boris Becker in the first round, reached the semi-finals with a

four-set victory over Felix Mantilla. In the women's event, Mary Pierce came from behind to beat Sabine Appelmans and Amanda Coetzer brushed past the American Kimberly Po. As courtside temperatures exceeded 50C, the roof over Centre Court was closed to spare players and public from the merciless heat; Report, page 23 Photograph: Allsport

Millwall forced to call in administrators

Millwall have called in administrators to try to stave off the threat of closure after shares in the Second Division club's holding company were frozen at just four pence each.

A statement from Miliwall Holdings and Football Club yesterday revealed that the club's board of directors had "decided to seek an administration order in order to facilitate the reconstruction and refinancing of the company".

The administrators will run the club's husiness and protect it from creditors while the board tries to sort out its situation. The Millwall chairman, Peter

Mead, vesterday tried to reassure fans and investors over the future of the club by promising that the refinancing package would place Millwall on a firmer financial footing.
We are looking to refinance

the club and simply asked the Stock Exchange to suspend the shares, as we are required to do so by law, in order to carry it out," he said, "We built this stadium [the New Den] and geared up the club for Premier League football. We failed to achieve that objective and sadly last year we were relegated.

Equally sadly, the costs of running the dub as a Premier club remain. What we have been doing in the past, to your disap-

pointment and mine, is to sell players to make up for this shortfall in our income against our Premier League expectations.

"What we have now decided to do is a once-and-for-all reorganisation and refinancing package to mean that we won't have to carry on selling all our hest young players just to cover losses, but to strengthen the club to achieve our ambitions." Former Millwall chairman

Reg Burr also expressed confi-dence that the difficulties would be resolved. "It's obviously a very critical situation but I don't believe for a moment that it's complete doom and gloom. Another Second Division club

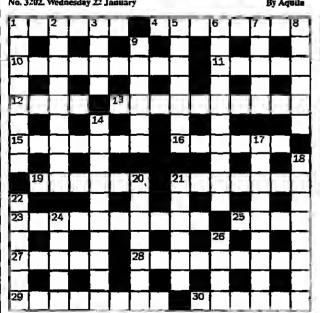
in trouble, Peterborough, who have debts reported to be in the region of £2.5m, are expected to confirm Peter Boizot, founder of the Pizza Express chain, as their new owner tomorrow.

The cluh's manager, Barry Fry, who took over at London Road last May, said that his planned purchase of the shareholdings of former chairman Alf Hand and chief executive Chris Turner never went through.

There were a lot of problems as we started looking into the financial side of the club and I have concentrated on getting things right on the field of play," Fry said.

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

Football Association discipli-Millwall collapse, page 19 nary hearing into the riot.



ACROSS

Athens medley-race (6) Do local magistrates sit on one? (3-5) 10 Sorry hike around area of 28 Carry away Irene, a hit

open valleys (9) Principal route of liquid 29 No easy money, this! oxygen carrier? (5) Goes out with two identi- 30 Protest against goal [6] cal notes in quarters (4)

Devotee of Austen's hit povel (9) 15 He is one! (7) 16 Small screw fitted to

cone-shaped candlestick 19 Perfect example of endless melancholy in Eng-

lish composer (6) 21 Foot-faults called in British matches (7)

23 Paying bill on leaving (10) 7

25 Expedition as far as ancient city (4) Wood used for making a 27 mast? (5)

drunk (9)

DOWN Coward's pollenosis (3.5) 20

Nervous about match in plantation (9) Energy by sea movement can bring affluence (4) Leftover cheese-spread for old doctors (7) Money tied up, in the

name of Shaw's captain Bellini's girl of Roman extraction (5)



Shape of toast (6) Songster allowed around tavern (6)

Homiletics, unexpectedly, in the middle of the Stone Age? (10) 17 Church-leaders, terribly cool, consumed what is sold in hars (9) 18 Tureen is brought out no longer hungry? (8) Counts detachments of

soldiers (7) Britain bearing old queen's flag (6) Sailor comes up with money all round this part

of Algiers (6) 24 Dizzy with rum (5) Poet goes over some dreary material (4)

C

Chastened Scotland opt for Townsend

Rugby Union CHRIS HEWETT

Gregor Townsend will get a belated opportunity to prove himself the most exciting outsidehalf in British rugby when a chastened Scottish side take on England in the Calcutta Cup match at Twickenham on Saturday week.

The versatile but often mis-

cast Northampton playmaker replaces Craig Chalmers in the pivot position following the Scots' underbaked display against Wales at Murravfield last weekend. Equally significant are two other changes to the middle five positions. Bryan Redpath gets the nod over Gary Armstrong at scrum-half while Ian Smith, the Gloucester flanker, returns on the openside after missing the Wales match with a broken thumb. Murray Wallace steps down

from the back row to make way for his more experienced rival. The selection makes rather more sense this time around, even though Roh Wainwright, the captain, once again occupies the No 8 position rather than his more effective blind-side role. Richie Dixon, the chief coach, and his colleagues have sensihly decided to use last year's

Five Nations as a template. On interest to two Scots who are that occasion, the back row and half-backs made light of than most: Ian McGeechan, shortcomings elsewhere to take the Scots to within 80 minutes

Repercussions from the Welsh defeat have also been felt mercurial 23-year-old in recent in the front row and the threequarter line. Dave Hilton, the prop forward from Bath, is relegated to the replacements' bench as Tom Smith, the uncapped Watsonian, earns a debut at loose head while the centre Scott Hastings, a try-scorer last Saturday, is dropped for

the second time this season. Ronnic Ericksson of London Scottish returns at centre and is joined by Tony Stanger, who moves inside from the right wing, Derek Stark, a genuine speed merchant from Melrose, gets his first start in the No 14 shirt since 1993, when he played in all four Five Nations games.

Surprisingly, there is no room for Aian Tait, the former rugby league centre who shone for Scotland A in their 50-point victory over Emerging Wales in Edinburgh last Friday. Indeed, the selectors have declined to promote any of the secondstringers, preferring to make full use of the existing senior squad. Townsend's performance at Twickenham will be of intense

more acutely aware of his talents the Lions coach for this summer's four of South Africa, and of an unexpected Grand Slam. Jim Telfer, his No 2. Both men have worked closely with the years - McGeechan is Towns end's club exach at Franklins Gardens - and if the Lions rumour mill is up to speed, they are looking at the Edichurghborn Saint as their first-choice

> One player who might have something to say about that is Arwel Thomas, who played so brilliantly at Murrayfield while Townsend was struggling to stamp some authority on events from the less influential position of inside centre. Thomas and the rest of his buoyant countrymen face Ireland in Cardiff on Saturday week and the selectors, who name their side tomorrow, are expected to leave

stand-off:

well alone. Well alone.
SCOTIAND (v England, Cakcutta, Cup, Twick-enflam, 1 February): R Shepherd (Melrose): In Stark (Melrose). A Startiger (Homest, R Evidence (Hondon Scotish), K Logan (Sming Cal): C Townsend (Northampton), a Reduction (Melrose): G Smith (Wattonans), G Edis (Curne), M Stewart (Northampton), G Melr (New Caste), A Read (Waspa). P Walton (Newscaste), R Wattwright (Watsonans, Captu. Caste), R Wattwright (Watsonans, Captu. I Smith (Gouçesten), Replacements: 9 Hastings (Wattonans), G Childrans (Melrose), G Armstrong (Newscatte), S Munra (GHI), D Hitton (Bath), S Brotherstone (Melrose).

Free-thinking Lions, page 24

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